



Explore College Solutions

Southern State Community College, Ohio

Two-year educational facility serving a five-county area including Adams, Brown, Clinton, Highland, and Fayette counties



The mission of SSCC is to provide accessible, affordable, and high quality education to the residents of the five counties. The vast, yet rural, service area is considered to be an underprivileged area of Appalachia, with 30% of constituents living below the federal poverty level. Offerings at each county campus include literacy, developmental and remedial activities, GED preparation, transfer and technical credit programs, and a wide range of community service programs, including workforce training.

The college's Fayette Campus Learning Resources Center Library houses the county's One-Stop Career Center, which is funded by state and federal dollars, and serves as an intermediary between residents and job assistance programs and resources. The Fayette Library staff works in conjunction with One-Stop Center staff to assist all citizens of the county, including dislocated workers.

Challenges Faced

»» LIMITED CAMPUS ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Many older adults are coming to college for the first time and are often intimidated by the reading, math, and English proficiency that is required. They need specialized attention and remedial support in order to develop essential skills in these subjects and progress in their college level studies. However, as a small, multi-campus college spread across a rural service area, SSCC is stretched thin in terms of providing academic support to these high-need students. The tutoring department and school librarians are not able to be present on every campus as need arises. As a result, the college was in the market for an affordable resource that would accommodate the particular needs of the students, yet be remotely accessible to all four campuses.

»» HIGH DEMAND FOR JOB SEARCH ASSISTANCE

Patrons of the One-Stop Center require assistance with a wide range of needs, including how to access the internet, acquire computer skills, complete online job applications, and develop job-search skills such as resume writing and interviewing. Due to the limited number of staff and restricted network capabilities at the Center, all patrons' needs were not being met. State and federal funding cuts may also impact the One-Stop Center. They require a resource that will support the development of critical writing and workplace skills, and will alleviate pressure on the Center's resources, while continuing to provide comprehensive support for a wide array of career needs.

LearningExpress Solutions

»» LEARNINGEXPRESS LIBRARY™ AND JOB & CAREER ACCELERATOR™

“The Job & Career Accelerator has become an integral part of our mission at the One-Stop Center” Library Manger Louis Mays.

Since access became available in late 2009 through the State Library of Ohio, LearningExpress Library has provided a dependable platform of academic and career support for students at each of the five campuses. SSCC quickly incorporated the resources into several areas of the college, including academic programs, libraries, and the One-Stop Career Center.

Job & Career Accelerator, added in 2010, has made an immediate difference for patrons at the One-Stop Center, as well as the students of SSCC. “The Job & Career Accelerator has become an integral part of our mission, as you can imagine,” says SSCC Professor/Librarian Louis Mays. According to Bob Brown, manager of the One-Stop Center, “Job & Career Accelerator is an important addition. People with skill deficiencies can brush up on their skills and improve in many areas from computer skills such as PowerPoint, to occupational practice tests. Our patrons can study for everything from nursing to civil service exams. It's also great for workplace skills improvement and success in GED prep.”

Bottom Line

» EASE-OF-ACCESS TO ACADEMIC RESOURCES

The ability to remotely access resources is essential for a small, multi-campus college like SSCC. LearningExpress is accessible from anywhere, at anytime, and provides a comprehensive solution for library and One-Stop Center patrons as well as the staff that help them. For Carissa Thatcher, a Library Manager at the One-Stop Center, Job & Career Accelerator is the go-to solution to help patrons with everything from skill building to writing resumes: "Job & Career Accelerator is integrated into everything we do, it's the first place we go and we don't even think about it!"

"As far as selling points, there are many. I am a big fan of LearningExpress and what we have accomplished in Ohio regarding access. This is truly an example of LSTA funds well-spent."

– Louis Mays, Library Manager

COLLEGES



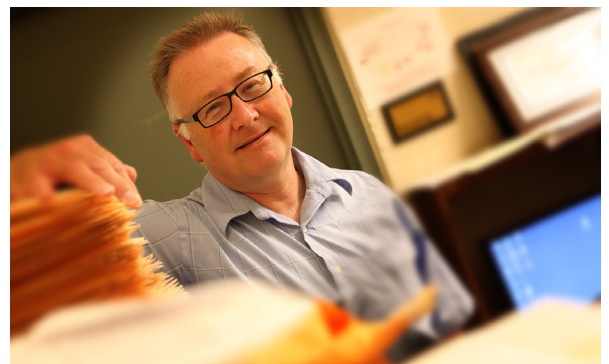
EXPLORE SOLUTIONS
THAT WILL HELP YOUR
STUDENTS ACHIEVE MORE –
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800 295 9556

» CLASSROOM SKILL-BUILDING SUPPORT

For students struggling with skill competency, "LearningExpress Library provides them with a secure private place where they can work at their own pace to bring their skills up to college level," says Louis Mays. "One student that comes to mind is Todd. He used LearningExpress Library after he enrolled in my College Success class and said the algebra tests really helped him get through his algebra class." Mr. Mays also supplements his "College Success" class with the LearningExpress Library Writing Skills Improvement Grammar Practice Exercise. He states: "I give the 40 question assessment to my students to give them a feel for how the testing works and how you can view the answers to the test afterwards."

» ALLEVIATE HIGH DEMAND FROM JOBSEEKERS

Job & Career Accelerator has freed up space on the network drive for participants of the One-Stop Centers' Resume Writing Program. Users have unlimited access to their personal secure storage, "My Accelerator." Before, "the flaw was that we were saving students' resumes to discs and flash drives," says Carissa Thatcher. "Now, we don't have issues with lost resumes, and the students' work is easily accessible from anywhere."



One-Stop Manager Bob Brown at the Fayette Campus

About LearningExpress:

With today's global economy and emphasis on 21st century skills, LearningExpress' online resources, including LearningExpress Library, Job & Career Accelerator, and Popular Software Tutorials, help patrons of all ages succeed by meeting a broad range of educational and career oriented needs. For your school or college solutions, call LearningExpress today, **800.295.9556**.