

The Adult Learner Connection

Columbus State Community College

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Gaining Support

By Nancy Davies

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(www.adultlearnercenter.com)

Our lives as adult students require a delicate balancing act among home, job and classroom. We're lucky just to find an extra ten minutes to grab a sandwich on the way from work to school. But by getting too caught up in dealing with immediate demands, we miss opportunities to pursue the one thing that could help us most – support.

Support is the key to success in every venture. We really can't go it alone – just look at the dozens of books, articles and seminars on networking for business success! Networking is building relationships that will help us succeed, and that will let us help others succeed, now and in the future. It's subtly (or not so subtly) self-promotional, garnering support for our causes.

Support comes in many forms, from all areas of our lives – at home, at work, at school. You may already have support in at least one of these areas. If not, you should devote at least a little of your valuable time to developing it. It's not hard. The trick is to talk about your experiences. You can't afford to be invisible!

Here are a few tips:

Support at home.

Share your studies with your family – young and old. Ask their advice. They may not know your subject, but you're sure to gain perspective from their feedback. And they won't feel neglected by your attention to your work. If you have kids, study with them. You'll all benefit!

Support at work.

Don't hesitate to discuss your studies with colleagues and bosses. Occasionally, you may encounter discouragement. Don't worry – they may just feel threatened by your growth. More often, you'll find sympathy and possibly good advice. You just might be able to encourage someone else to go back to school, too.

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue:	
Inside this issue:	
Gaining Support	1-2
Exploring E-Learning	2-3
Jazz in July	4
New Program with Ohio University	5
Summer Quarter Important Dates	6
Helpful Websites	7



“Let us dare to read,
think, speak and
write.”

-John Adams, 1765

Support at school.

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Talk to your teachers. Take a few minutes to stay after class. Let them know who you are. And never be embarrassed to admit you don't understand something, or that you have a problem.

- Talk to your advisor. You'd be surprised how few adult students seek out the help available to them! If you have a concern, ask about it. I've found that if you don't ask, they often don't tell. They'll simply think you don't need them and go on to help someone else.
- Join or start a student group or a study group.
- Volunteer to tutor other students.
- If you're taking classes online, look for or start a virtual study group where you can help each other and share your experiences. There's another benefit to networking while you're in school, too. You'll develop a skill that will support you throughout your career.

12/04/01



Exploring E-Learning:

What the Ohio Learning Network Can Do For You

**By Mary Higginbotham,
Academic Advisor,
Columbus State Community College**

Did you know that students age 25 or older make up half of all students taking distance- or E-learning courses? Did you also know that students at community and technical colleges make up 64% of all E-learning enrollments in Ohio? Across Ohio's public colleges and universities, nearly 50,000 students were taking at least one distance course. At Columbus State alone, 6,450 students enrolled in E-learning courses in Autumn 2006, up 50.95% from the same time in 2004.*

If you're a student currently participating in distance learning courses – including online (web-based), blended, technology-enhanced, interactive video, television, CD, DVD or correspondence courses – then you've already discovered the flexibility and accessibility that this increasingly popular class format (often called "E-learning") can offer.

If you're a student considering a step in the direction of distance learning, then you should know more about the Ohio Learning Network, an organization specifically focused on assisting students interested in pursuing education through E-learning.

Created to be a "one-stop-shop" for E-learning opportunities, the Ohio Learning Network has put together a catalog that now includes more than 4,500 courses and 206 degrees and certificates, available from 22 community and technical colleges, 11 universities and their regional campuses, and 16 independent colleges and universities.**

Since 1999, the Ohio Learning Network, or OLN, has focused on three primary objectives: connecting Ohioans to education programs that meet their needs; helping colleges and universities utilize technology in teaching and learning; and working to

What does OLN do for students? While OLN itself does not offer E-learning courses for college credit, it does help connect interested student to educational opportunities, either for degree completion or personal or professional development. Many of the programs that OLN helps connect students to are distance or E-learning programs, but they will also connect students to traditionally-offered programs if that fits the student's needs more effectively.

Physically located in Columbus, OLN connects with students statewide through a system of regional coordinators: staff members who function as advising contacts for students living in or looking for programs in specific areas of Ohio. Regional coordinators are assigned to each of five areas: northwestern, northeastern, southwestern, southeastern, and central Ohio. For a detailed map of these regions, please see <http://www.ohiolearns.org/rc/rcs.php>

OLN assists students with selecting a "home institution," a college or university where the student plans to earn his or her degree of interest. OLN helps connect students with potential home institutions through their online catalog, *Ohio Learns!* (www.ohiolearns.org). Once students have selected a home institution, OLN further helps students with the enrollment process, including understanding application, placement, registration, credit transfer, and financial aid processes.

OLN does not register students, offer placement testing, or award transfer credit or financial aid, but they direct students to the appropriate offices at their home institutions where students can have questions answered. OLN also provides links to general web sites that explain what these processes are and how they work.

According to OLN Regional Coordinator Nancy Ragias, OLN staff members assist 700 contacts per year by phone, e-mail, and in-person appointments. The *Ohio Learns!* Catalog experiences 800-900 hits on an average day. Ragias indicates that most students learn about OLN through radio advertisements, but that some students are referred by their current colleges or universities. Others find OLN through information available from the Ohio College Access Network (OCAN), public libraries, One Stop offices or community technology centers.

Advantages that OLN can offer students working with their organization include a guarantee that students will find courses and programs offered by regionally-accredited institutions. OLN also helps students narrow their search to Ohio colleges. According to Ragias, many students still opt for colleges or universities within their own geographic area, even though E-learning opportunities necessitate fewer locational boundaries.

Want to learn more about OLN and what they can do for you? Visit www.ohiolearns.org

**Catalyst for Change: E-learning in Ohio*, Annual Report Prepared by the Ohio Learning Network in Cooperation with the Ohio Board of Regents, the University of Cincinnati, Columbus State Community College, Sinclair Community College and Stark State College, December 2007, pp. 4-10.

***Ibid.*, p. 12.



Jazz in July



***Thursday, July 10th, 12:00 —2:00p.m.
Outside on the Commons
Food and Entertainment
Join in the Fun!!***

***Sponsored by Student Activities and Athletics
For More Information, call 287-2637***



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

New Program with Ohio University

Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies

The Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies (BTAS) is intended for students who have already completed an applied associate's degree program from an accredited community college, regional campus, or technical college, and who wish to pursue a baccalaureate degree.

The BTAS builds upon the technical skills developed within applied associate degree programs by providing the knowledge and professional skills necessary for career advancement. The program utilizes 96 quarter hours of associate degree credit, of which 36-45 quarter hours must be in a technical field. Another 96 quarter hours are needed to meet the minimum for a baccalaureate degree.

In addition to the 49-56 hours of major requirements listed on the back, the student may expect to spend 24-36 hours meeting general education requirements and prerequisites. The remaining 4-23 hours are electives. A course may not count for two requirements within the major.

Progress to the degree is assured by consultation at every stage of the program with an Ohio University academic advisor.

Parallel CSCC Program

- Associate of Applied Science – A.A.S.

Program Admission Requirements

- 2.00 accumulative GPA is required
- Application and acceptance to Community College Partnership Program through Ohio University
- Official transcripts sent to Ohio University

Application Information

Application forms are available in the Community College Partnership office or can be downloaded from the following address: www.ouorc.edu/ccp

For More Information, Contact

Jodie Van Winkle at Columbus State, Center for Workforce Development, Suite 1076, Suite 1079. Phone: 287-5778 or vanwinkl@ohio.edu or 1-614.367.9371, ext. 726

Questions can also be answered by clicking on the "Ask an Advisor" link at the following web address: <http://www.ohiou.edu/independent/>

This is subject to change. Please see an Ohio University Academic Advisor!

SUMMER QUARTER IMPORTANT DATES

June 30- September 13, 2008

Registration begins..... April 28
Last Day to Register and Pay Fees for Summer.....June 25
Petitions to Graduate Summer, 2008
 due in Records & Registration.....July 11
Independence Day—Campus Closed.....July 4
Deadline to Apply for FAFSA for Autumn Quarter..July 18
Registration Begins for Autumn Quarter.....July 28
Deadline for Petition for Readmission.....August 25
Labor Day—Campus Closed.....September 1
Last day to drop full term classes.....September 2
Graduation CeremonySeptember 12



“Knowing is not enough;

We must apply.

Willing is not enough;

We must do.”

-Johann Von Goethe

HELPFUL WEBSITES



www.actionforchildren.org—Resource for choosing childcare, parenting classes, etc.

www.adultstudentcenter.com - The Adult Student Center, your resource for information and guidance on returning to college.

www.back2college.com - Articles featuring adult learners, forums for adult learners and also resources and scholarship information.

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/> - Provides information to assist with career choice, including education needed, earnings, job outlook, and what workers do on the job.

<http://csc.edu/CDC/> - Child Development Center at Columbus State. Includes information on the the **CCAMPIS** (Child Care Access Means Parents In School) **GRANT**, which provides financial assistance to eligible families with children enrolled in the Columbus State Child Development Center. The program helps needy students (who are Pell Grant eligible) obtain quality child care while working towards a degree at Columbus State.

<http://csc.edu/FinancialAid/scholarships.htm> - Scholarship information on Columbus State's website. Note that the CSCC Development Foundation Scholarship Booklet for Academic Year 08-09 comes out on Monday June 16th.

<http://www.bls.gov/oco/> - Provides information to assist with career choice, including education needed, earnings, job outlook, and what workers do on the job.

<http://www.how-to-study.com/> - A study skills resource site. Includes information on learning styles, solving word problems, using abbreviations, punctuation, writing a research paper, etc.

<http://www.scholarshipexperts.com> - Provides a time-saving, customized search for scholarships that match your interests and academic background. Includes option to receive scholarship notices and application reminders.

COLUMBUS STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"There are no shortcuts
to anyplace worth going."

-Unknown

The **Adult Learner Connection** is a creation of Advising Services / Laura Huston-Hoburg, Counselor at Columbus State Community College. For more information please call 287-5023, or stop by Aquinas Hall, room 116.