

Ozarka College

THE CONNECTION



11/28: The graduating class of LPN and RN students were honored at a luncheon/banquet.

11/29: Capping and Pinning Ceremony was held in the John E. Miller Auditorium.



12/2: Holiday Event: An Enchanted Christmas



12/5 and 12/12: Parades in Salem, Thayer and Mammoth

Spring



12/19: SGA donation to Shady Oaks

President's Perspective

I want to wish everyone a happy, fulfilling, safe and healthy 2017! We at Ozarka College have much to be thankful for and appreciate but I am so proud that we, as a team, are always driven to find new ways to be more effective serving our students.

I'm excited to announce the establishment of an Agricultural Science degree at Ozarka. We will begin offering an Associate of Science that can transfer directly to ASU – Jonesboro. We will of course be adding additional transfer partners in time, as this is such a relevant degree for our region, state and nation. The Aviation (flight) program continues to develop and we plan to add a multi-engine training aircraft to the fleet in the next month or two. The commercial aviation industry is in great need of well-trained pilots to pursue exciting and well-paying careers. We also now offer drone operator training to prepare interested students and community members for the required FAA certification.

I want to also mention that due to a concerted effort by student services, marketing, academics, and others, our enrollment continues to increase. This allows us to add additional academic programs and improve our services to students. Stand by for more exciting news about additional technical training opportunities as we explore the feasibility of establishing a technical training center somewhere in our service region.

Best of Success!

Dr. Richard Dawe



Sutton Nursing Scholarship



Ozarka College is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's Kenneth and Janice Sutton Nursing scholarships.

Tammy Branscum, Dillon Lawrence and Haley Everett (pictured left – right) will each receive \$3,000 for the 2016-2017 academic year. All of these students reside in Stone County and are in the LPN program at Ozarka College – Mountain View.

WHY OZARKA?

Individualized Support

- 13:1 Student/Faculty Ratio
- One-on-one advising

Affordable

- \$88 per credit hour
- Assistance with financial aid

Accessible

- 4 campus locations
- Online and evening courses

YOUR SUCCESS STARTS HERE

1. COMPLETE ADMISSIONS APPLICATION ONLINE
2. SUBMIT OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS
3. IMMUNIZATION RECORDS
4. PLACEMENT TEST SCORES
5. TAKE PHOTO FOR STUDENT ID

CONTACT:

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ACADEMICS

HEALTHCARE

Licensed Practical Nursing
 Registered Nursing
 Health Information Technology
 Health Professions
 Certified Nursing Assistant
 Emergency Medical Technology
 Medical Office Administration
 Pre-Health Sciences

EDUCATION

Teaching
 Early Childhood Development

BUSINESS & TECHNICAL

Automotive Service Technology
 Business Technology
 Culinary Arts
 General Technology
 Business
 Accounting
 Banking & Finance
 Business Computer Applications
 Business Management
 Information Science Technology
 Hospitality Management

TRANSFERABLE DEGREES

General Education
 Teaching
 Business
 Criminal Justice and Corrections
 Human Services
 Aviation - Professional Pilot

Ozarka Aviation News



Large Corporate Flight Department Visit

November 18, 2016 will be a day to remember for students in Ozarka College's Aviation program. The students and their flight instructors had a great experience visiting a large Arkansas corporate flight department. During the visit, students learned firsthand how a successful flight department is managed. The students also had the opportunity to tour several jet aircraft along with a tour of the airport's air traffic control tower.

This visit gave students an insight into another sector of the aviation industry. When asked about his experience, Alex Pannell (Ozarka College aviation student) said, "Awesome learning experience being able to explore the corporate side of aviation." He also enjoyed talking to several of the department's pilots.

"While the students always enjoy seeing exciting aircraft and touring tower facilities, the opportunity to interact with experienced pilots and other professionals with varied career paths was the real benefit," said Nick Lenczycki, Ozarka College director of aviation. "We strive to ensure that students are able to explore as many career options as possible while they are enrolled in our program, so they are as prepared as possible for their future. We are incredibly appreciative of the time and access that this corporation and their staff contributed to our students' learning experience."



Solo Flights

December 9: Samuel Vogt

December 15: Jackson Braun



Flight to Searcy

December 15: Holden Menah

Congratulations, Dr. Sharp!



Ozarka College's associate vice president of planning and institutional research, Deltha Sharp, has earned a Doctorate of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership. For her dissertation, she studied the level of implementation of best practices in developmental education at colleges and universities across the United States. Dr. Sharp's degree was conferred at Arkansas State University on **December 10, 2016**.

Dr. Richard Dawe, Ozarka College president shared, "We are very proud of Dr. Sharp's achievement and the excellent work she does for the College on a daily basis. We are very fortunate to have someone as talented as Deltha on our team at Ozarka!"

Dr. Sharp, an Evening Shade native, has been employed by Ozarka College since 2003. Prior to her current position, she served as adjunct faculty, academic advisor, and program director. Dr. Sharp also has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Lyon College at Batesville, a Master in Business Administration from University of Arkansas in Little Rock, and a Specialist in Community College Teaching from Arkansas State University.

Overturf Retires After 16 Years of Service



Karen Overturf, Ozarka College administrative specialist to the provost and executive vice president for learning, retired after sixteen years of service. Ms. Overturf was honored at Ozarka's end of year celebration on Friday, **December 9, 2016**.

Ozarka College provost and executive vice president for learning, Dr. Keith McClanahan, spoke about Karen's contributions to the College. "Karen has been instrumental to the College's ability to serve student and faculty needs over the past 16 years. She is a wealth of knowledge and has seen a multitude of changes at the College during this time," said Dr. McClanahan. "Karen has been my go-to-person for all things Ozarka over the last 18 months as the new Provost. She has definitely made Ozarka College a better place for students and staff."

Dr. McClanahan thanked Karen for her years of service, then presented her with a retirement plaque. Upon accepting her years of service award, Karen stated that she would miss everyone she has worked with, but this is a happy time. She is looking forward to relocating to spend more time with family, especially her grandson.

Military Friendly School

Victory Media, originator of the family of Military Friendly® employment, entrepreneurship and education resources for veterans and their families, has declared Ozarka College as a 2017 Military Friendly® School.

According to militaryfriendly.com, “These higher-education institutions have been recognized for exhibiting leading practices in recruiting and supporting post-military students.” When rating schools for the Military Friendly list, the following criterion was considered: academic policies and compliance, admissions and orientation, culture and commitment, financial aid and assistance, graduation and career, and military student support and retention.

Ozarka College looks forward to continue serving those who have served their community. Registration for the spring semester is currently open and classes begin on **January 9, 2017**. For more information about becoming a student, please call 870.368.2024, email: admissions@ozarka.edu, or stop by any of Ozarka’s four campus locations in Melbourne, Ash Flat, Mammoth Spring or Mountain View.

SCCRC Donates \$10,000



Ozarka College is very pleased to accept another \$10,000 donation from the Stone County Community Resource Council (SCCRC) in Mountain View, Arkansas. The SCCRC is comprised of volunteers who collect, sort and re-sale donated items through the Dorcas House Thrift Store where most of these items are sold for just 25-cents each, or \$2.00 per bag.

These small purchases really add up; so much so that they have brought the total donations from the SCCRC for Ozarka student scholarships to an incredible \$120,000! The monetary contributions that the SCCRC has made to Ozarka College only begins to touch the surface of the lives

they are changing. Of the \$120,000 donated, \$100,000 has been designated for scholarships and \$20,000 for priority College enhancements.

The \$100,000 in scholarship donations from SCCRC have been awarded to students in \$500 increments, and these students must reside in Stone County. By doing this, countless students have been, and will continue to be assisted in their educational endeavors by these generous donations.

Since the SCCRC is a nonprofit organization, charitable donations are tax deductible. Donations can be dropped off at the Dorcas House, located on School Street in Mountain View, Arkansas. For more information about the Stone County Community Resource Council or Ozarka College, please contact Lindsay Wilson-Galloway, director of the Ozarka College campus in Mountain View, by calling 870.269.5600.

Financial Aid Excellence Award



Ozarka College's financial aid department has received the Student Loan Default Prevention Excellence Award from Student Connections, the national affiliate of USA Funds that specializes in helping colleges and universities support viable loan repayment and other outcomes that drive student success.

Each year, Student Connections releases data in reporting periods based on the past three-years. Ozarka has seen a continuous downward trend in cohort default rates for the past four reporting periods. For the 2010 reporting period, the College saw an all-time high of 41.8%. With focused effort, the following year dropped to 23.1%. For the

current reporting period, which includes borrowers from the three-year reporting period that began in 2013, the cohort default rates have decreased to 16.6% and are projected to hit a very low 13% in the 2014 reporting period.

Ozarka College is committed to the success of their students and provides them with information on scholarships, payment plans, Pell grants, and work-study opportunities. All of these opportunities help students obtain their educational goals with fewer loans. Dr. Richard Dawe, Ozarka College president commented, "This dramatic sustained decrease was an all-hands effort, but great credit surely goes to Laura Lawrence and her committed team of professionals."

The total amount of loans obtained from 2014-2015 to the 2015-2016 academic term decreased by over \$874,000. Helping students earn degrees with less debt affords them greater opportunities for a brighter, more successful future.

Registration for spring and summer semester courses is now open and classes begin on **January 9, 2017**. For more information about financial aid opportunities, please contact Laura Lawrence, Ozarka College director of financial aid, at 870.368.2009 or email: finaid@ozarka.edu

Direct Deposit for Students

Fast. Secure. Green.
Choose
DIRECT DEPOSIT

If you haven't already, be sure to sign up for Direct Deposit! This will ensure that you receive your PELL disbursement, even if we're closed for inclement weather.

Adkins and Smith to Present at Regional Conference



Ozarka College's Kay Adkins (director of career services and Perkins coordinator) and Kendra Smith (career mentor) presented at the Arkansas Academic Advising Network (ArkAAN) conference held at the University of Central Arkansas in May. After their presentation, attendees completed an evaluation and Kay and Kendra earned a 'best of ArkAAN presenter's score. Their score was then compared to other 'best of presenter evaluations and they have recently been notified that they received 'Best of State.' This distinction qualifies them to represent ArkAAN at the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) Regional Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma in **February 2017.**

NACADA is a 13,000 member organization of higher education professionals, and according to the group's mission statement, NACADA promotes student success by advancing the field of academic advising globally.

The NACADA Region 7 Annual Conference will have attendees from Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Kansas. Kay and Kendra's presentation title is, "Students in Transition Need to "MAKE A PLAN": Ozarka College Student Services Career Planning Workbook." Their workshop will briefly cover some career development theory highlights, how Ozarka College Career Services has applied career development theory to develop program strategies, and some successes and challenges experienced.

"Having clear, realistic career goals is one factor that correlates with a student's likelihood of persisting to degree/program completion," said Kay Adkins. Kendra Smith added, "Many students entering college have never thoughtfully or intentionally explored their own interests, skills, and values, or explored how 'who they are' can fit into different vocations that could be potentially satisfying." In addition to finding a vocational 'fit', students can benefit from having a detailed and realistic plan to progress from where they are now into the job they want.

Ozarka College Career Services provides career exploration and employability assistance to Ozarka career and technical education students through workshops and one-on-one coaching. For more information about the services available, please call 870-368-2056 or email: success@ozarka.edu.

Online Health Information Technology Program Available

Ozarka College is currently accepting students for the spring 2017 semester to the Health Information Technology (HIT) program. Spring 2017 classes will begin on **January 9** and the HIT classes are all online.

Students may earn a technical certificate or an associate of applied science degree. The technical certificate prepares students with the skills necessary to obtain entry-level employment in the health record departments of hospitals, clinics, government facilities, and other medical facilities.

By completing an associate of applied science degree, students are prepared to process data and are familiar with transcription practices, diagnosis and procedural coding of the medical office and in the hospital setting. Students also learn to apply the principles of professional and ethical conduct, thus becoming a vital link in the healthcare chain of our society.

To apply for Ozarka College's HIT program and to register for courses, please contact the office of admissions, by calling 870.368.2024 or email: admissions@ozarka.edu.

Contact the Editor to share your news:

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EMT Program in Ash Flat

Ozarka College in Ash Flat is currently accepting students for the spring 2017 semester to the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. Spring 2017 classes will begin on January 9 and EMT classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Additional clinical hours will also be required to complete the program.

The length of the EMT program is just one semester and will be instructed by Andy Schisler, long time employee and paramedic for Spring River Ambulance of Cherokee Village. To apply for Ozarka College's EMT program and to register for courses, please contact Kim Whitten, director of Ozarka College – Ash Flat, by calling 870.994.7273 or email: kwhitten@ozarka.edu.

Prospective students who are accepted into the program will be required to pass a drug screening and criminal background check.

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