

Southern State Community College Teachers go back to school to expand Online-Teaching Skills Ultimate goal is improving student success

Hillsboro, Ohio—Four faculty members from Southern State Community College have jumped at the chance to improve their online teaching skills by participating in a 25-week Effective Online Teaching Practices course offered in collaboration with the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). Southern State Community College participants include: Dr. Gayle Mackay, Professor, Business; Kelly Schradin, Associate Professor, Biology; Russ Clark, Assistant Professor, Physics; and Cathy McClain, Assistant Professor, Human and Social Services.

“This is a tremendous professional development opportunity delivered at just the right time,” suggested Southern State Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Nicole Roades. “Nearly a year ago, the pandemic thrust all of education into a new way of delivering courses. Today, not much has changed except that we are recognizing expansion of distance learning as the new normal. As such, the Southern State faculty aim to deliver the same high quality experiences as they did before the pandemic and this kind of training helps us meet those goals.” These individuals will be joining more than 150 faculty members from 22 Ohio community colleges as they learn and implement equity-promoting, evidence-based teaching practices shown to improve student engagement, persistence, course completion, and learning.

The program is part of a collaboration between the Ohio Association of Community Colleges (OACC) and the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). ACUE programs in effective teaching practices are based on more than three decades of research that demonstrates effective teaching improves learning for all students.

Considered a graduate-level course, the program consists of 25 modules separated into four blocks—Creating an Inclusive and Supportive Online Learning Environment, Promoting Active Learning Online, Inspiring Inquiry and Lifelong Learning in Your Online Course, and Designing an Effective Course.

Equity-promoting teaching practices are among the hundreds of recommended approaches that faculty learn about and develop in ACUE courses, as demonstrated in [ACUE’s Inclusive and Equitable Teaching Curriculum Crosswalk](#).

Faculty will be teaching classes at Southern State while taking the course, which begins this month, so they will use what they learn immediately.