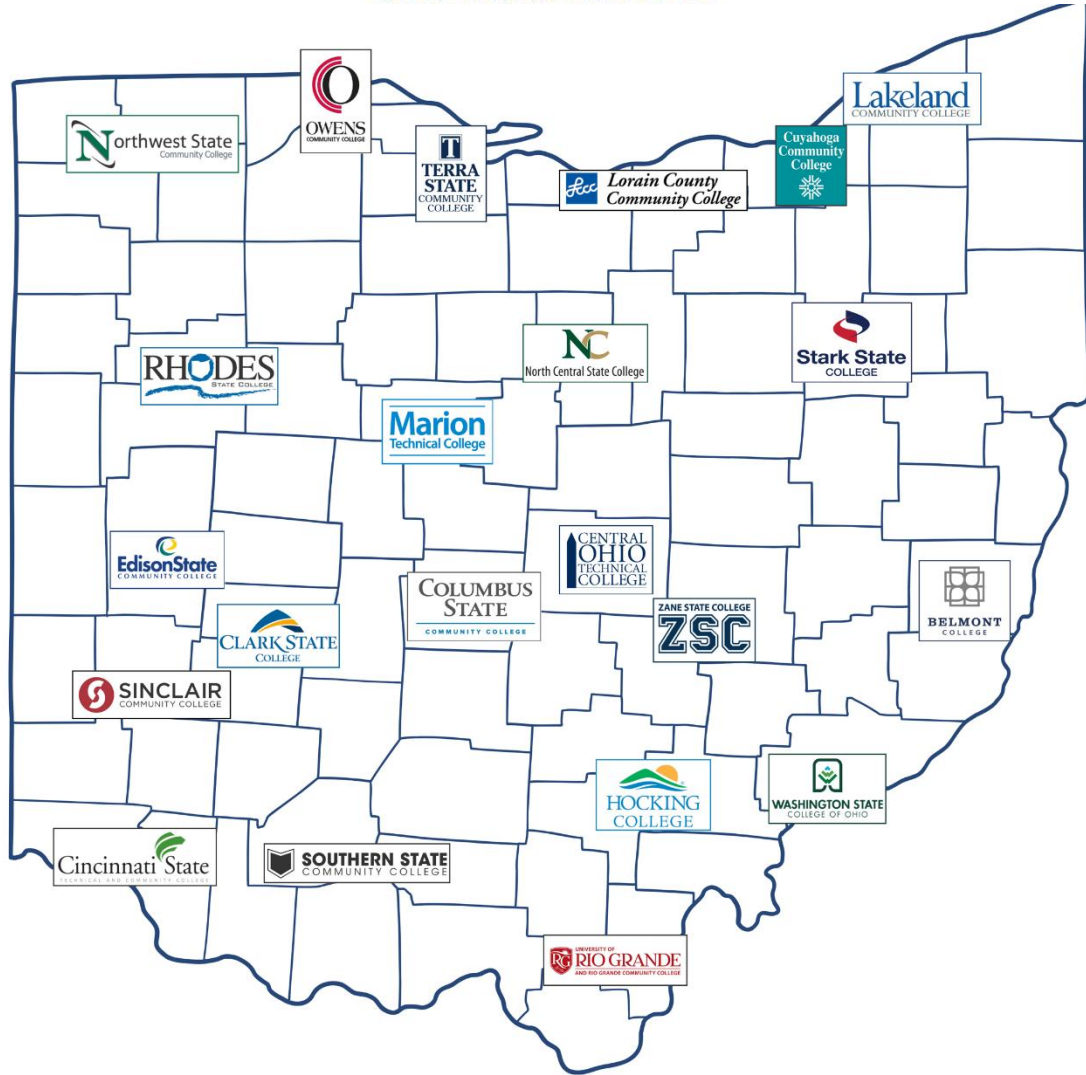




Ohio's Community Colleges as Key Workforce Partners

Katelyn Bowling, Senior Director, Government Relations



Established 1993

Serving Ohio's 22
Community Colleges

Governed by
Presidents and Trustees

What Guides OACC's Work:

Mission

OACC advocates for Ohio's community colleges with strong policy leadership, empowers members to drive workforce alignment and student success, and convenes partners across education, workforce, and government to advance the vitality of Ohio's communities.

Vision

As the unified voice for Ohio's community colleges, OACC will advance policies and partnerships that position the state's community colleges as the model for access, affordability, workforce alignment, and student success.

Policy & Advocacy Advance policies that strengthen and elevate community colleges	Student & Workforce Success Support student and workforce outcomes across Ohio	Professional Development & Network Engagement Build member leadership capacity and collaboration	Innovative Solutions Foster creative models and new approaches for sector success
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Ohio's Economic Opportunity is Significant



Sustaining that momentum depends on talent.

Ohio's Opportunity Depends on Talent

540,000 STEM & technically skilled workers needed over the next decade.

Technicians account for **43%** of that demand.



22 Colleges. One Statewide Workforce Network

1,000+

Employer
partnerships

73%

of Ohio's College
Credit Plus students

63%

of adult learners age
25+

84%

of graduates stay in
Ohio.

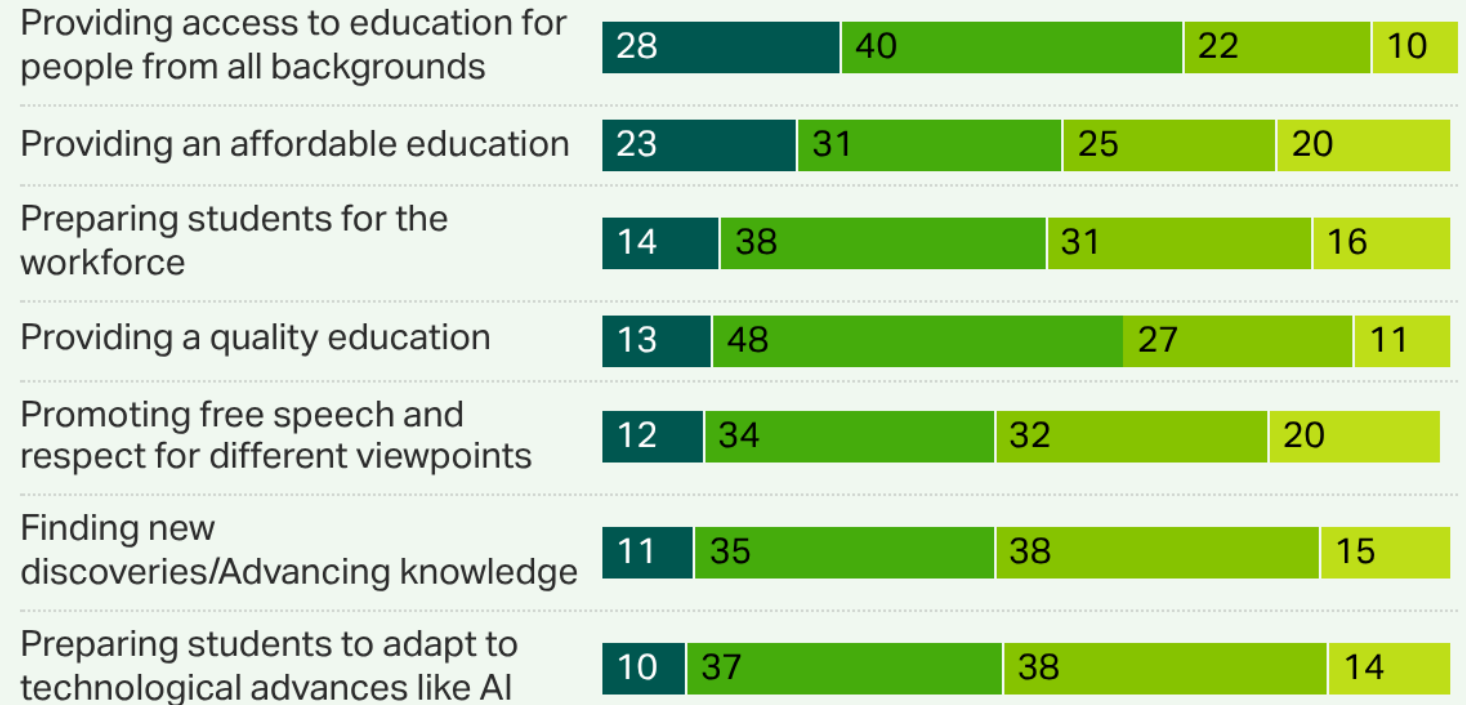
Serving learners and employers at every stage of Ohio's talent pipeline.

Community Colleges Bring Public Confidence to the Table

Two-Year Colleges Earn Majority-Positive Ratings on Access, Quality, Workforce Preparation and Affordability

How would you rate the job two-year colleges in the U.S. are doing in each of the following areas?

■ % Excellent ■ % Good ■ % Fair ■ % Poor

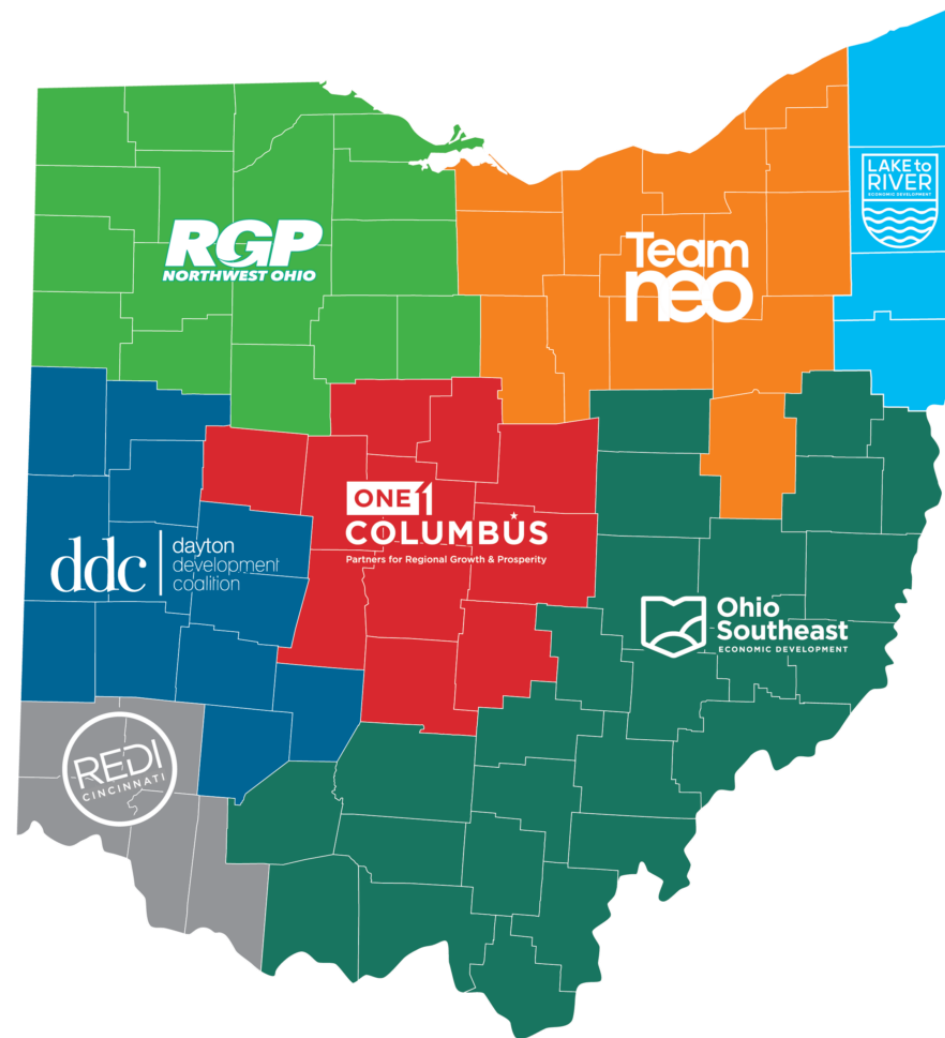


Lumina Foundation-Gallup Confidence in Higher Education survey

June 1-15, 2026

Ohio is Already Thinking Regionally

- **JobsOhio:** Regional economic development partners
- **WorkOhio:** Regional job hubs and community connectors
- **Regional Education Partnerships:** Shared local data and coordinated action



Community Colleges' Emerging Workforce Priorities

[Emerging priorities under development]

- 1. Statewide talent advancement**
- 2. Rapid response to employer needs**
- 3. Curriculum informed by employers and data**
- 4. Demonstrating community colleges' value and impact**

What Collaboration Looks Like Here



Pioneer
College Credit
Plus

Employer
Exploration

Hess
apprenticeship

North Central
degree +
journeyman;s
card

Transfer to
OSU



Award-winning student success!

From Mine to Ours



Partner	Starting question	Shared question
Schools	How do students succeed in our programs?	How do we give each student a clear next step?
Employers	How do we fill today's vacancies?	How do we help build tomorrow's talent?
Economic development	How do we attract investment?	How do we sustain the workforce it needs?
Colleges	How do we grow enrollment?	How do we help more people complete and advance?

Resources Can Help Turn Partnership Into Pathways

Purpose	Resource Examples
Help people access training	Workforce Pell, IMAP
Connect learning and paid work	Apprenticeships, internships, JobsOhio Experiential Learning
Strengthen employer training capacity	TechCred, CDL, SuperRAPIDS



Department of
Higher Education



Department of
Education &
Workforce



Department of
Development

The Regions that Collaborate Best Will Compete Best

- Identify one shared workforce need
- Bring the right partners together
- Agree on what success looks like



Thank you, and please reach out with questions!

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