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OCTA news

OHIO COLLEGE TESTING ASSOCIATION

OCTA Governing Board of Officers

President

Heidi Pettyjohn
University of Cincinnati
513-556-9791
pettyjhc@ucmail.uc.edu

Secretary

Jennifer Carrick
Rhodes State College
419-995-8009
carrickj@rhodestate.edu

Treasurer

Cindy Sproehnle
Good Samaritan College of
Nursing and Health Science
513-862-3504
cindy.sproehnle@yahoo.com

Membership Chair

Angela Zippin
University of Cincinnati
513-556-7173
zippinar@ucmail.uc.edu

Conference Chair

Sara Rieder Bennett
The University of Akron
330-972-7084
slr45@uakron.edu

Committee Chair

Tyler M. Marinelli
Franklin University
614-947-6805
tyler.marinelli@franklin.edu

Past President

Jim Kalna
Columbus State Community
College
614-287-5425
jkalna@csc.edu

president's welcome

Heidi Pettyjohn



It is hard to believe that it's been just three years since a handful of testing professionals from around the state of Ohio met for a meeting at The Ohio State University to discuss the possibility of creating a state testing organization. In those three years, we have created bylaws, put on two conferences, held our first election for the OCTA Governing Board, established a website and electronic mailing list, and are now publishing our second newsletter.

In this letter, you will find a write up of our 2013 OCTA Conference, information about OCTA membership, and a new feature we are calling "Spotlight". Michelle Teasley from Columbus State Community College is our first Spotlight member; check out that article for information on how you can spotlight your staff or testing center in the future.

The Conference Committee, led by Conference Chair Sara Reider-Bennett, is busy working on your 2014 Conference. This year's conference will have a twist- we are partnering with testing professionals in Indiana and Michigan to bring you the Great Lakes Testing Conference. Save the date now for May 8-9!

Although we are still a young organization, as President my thoughts are on the future. What will OCTA look like in 2 years? 5 years? 10 years? What is our role in higher education in the state of Ohio? How do we continue to provide quality resources and professional development opportunities to our members? As we begin to form our identity, these are questions that I challenge not just the Governing Board, but all OCTA members, to consider. I look forward to serving you and this organization over the next two years, and if you have thoughts on how you can contribute to OCTA's future, please do not hesitate to let me know.

In this issue:

Sara Rieder Bennett gives the highlights of the 2013 OCTA conference and looks ahead to 2014

Columbus State Community College's Michelle Teasley talks office mergers

Learn about upcoming opportunities and ongoing projects in the Ohio College Testing Association

Expanding Horizons: The Second Annual OCTA Conference and Future Great Lakes Testing Conference

Sara Rieder Bennett, Conference Chair



On May 17th, 2013, the Ohio College Testing Association met for our second annual conference with more than 82 members in attendance, representing nearly a 37% increase in participation from 2012. The 2013 Conference was supported in part by a grant from the National College Testing Association. The theme was “Testing to the Future: Planning Strategies for Success” and we are grateful to the vendors, presenters, and attendees who contributed to the success of the conference. OCTA would also like to express gratitude to Columbus State Community College for hosting the conference in the Center for Workforce Development for a second year.

The conference opened with a welcome from incoming OCTA President Heidi Pettyjohn from the University of Cincinnati. The conference was a one-day event featuring four breakout session times with twelve presentations, a vendor fair, and keynote speech from Dr. Felicia Wallace of the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Wallace’s keynote truly highlighted the theme for 2013 by elaborating on strategic planning to increase the success of centers by grounding within the organizational mission. Topics of presentations were varied, including placement testing, adaptive testing, accommodated testing, use of technology and data collection, expanding and developing test centers, and changes to tests such as the GED. Feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive and members expressed interest in expanding on these and additional topics at future conference, including:



- Addressing teamwork and personalities in organizations
- Distance learning
- Developmental education versus testing
- Growing or expanding test center
- Risk management and liability concerns
- Accommodated testing and working with ADA
- Roundtable discussions to share what other colleges are doing

Meet the OCTA Membership!

OCTA’s current membership is comprised of 88 members from 35 different institutions (32 from Ohio, 2 from Indiana, and one from Michigan).

Institutions Represented

Ashland University
Bowling Green State University
Capital University
Central Ohio Technical College
Cincinnati State Technical/Community College
Columbus State Community College
Cuyahoga Community College
Defiance College
Eastern Gateway Community College
Franklin University
Good Samaritan College of Nursing/Health
Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana
Kent State University
Kent State University, Stark
Lakeland Community College
Marion Technical College
Mercy College of Ohio
Michigan State University
North Central State College
Ohio University
Ohio University, Chillicothe
Ohio University, Southern
Ohio University, Lancaster
Owens Community College
Purdue University, Calumet
Rhodes State College
Southern State Community College
The Ohio State University
University of Akron
University of Akron, Wayne College
University of Cincinnati
University of Cincinnati, Clermont
University of Dayton
Wright State University
Youngstown State University

Current Job Responsibilities

Placement Testing	65
Make-up Testing	30
Entrance Exams	30
Distance Learning	50
Licensure	29
Academic Testing	21
Disability Testing	45
Talent Screening	13
Other (CLEP/MAT/ Psychological)	18

We were fortunate to have a number of test vendors contribute to this conference. We would like to thank ACT; Castle Worldwide, Inc., Certiport; The College Board; CTB/McGraw-Hill; ICDL (WD&E Consulting); Law School Admission Council; McCann Associates; Pearson Vue; ProctorU, Inc.; RegisterBlast; and the University System of Ohio Talent Development Network (USO-TDN) for sponsoring this event and providing knowledgeable and attentive representatives to share with our members. Several of the test vendor representatives also took time to present during breakout sessions, including Annette McIver and Michelle McGee of USO-TDN; Patrick Ochoa of ProctorU, Inc.; Sandy Major of Pearson Vue; Dwight Pittman of RegisterBlast; Scott Kramer and Dr. Matthew Schultz of McCann Associates; and Mike Johnson and Aaron Hartman of CTB/McGraw-Hill; and Dr. Bob Dove and Kyle Harder of WD&E Consulting. In an effort to reach our colleagues who could not attend, presentation materials can be located on the new OCTA website at www.ohiocta.com under the 2013 Annual Conference link. Presenters who would like to share their materials can send them to Sara Rieder Bennett at slr45@uakron.edu.



OCTA is looking at “Expanding Horizons,” the theme of the 2014 Great Lakes Testing Conference, as we include our colleagues from neighboring states and increase the conference to two days. While OCTA has always been open to neighbors, the Great Lakes Testing Conference will be hosted by Ohio with assistance in planning from colleagues in Indiana and Michigan to increase participation, inclusiveness, and diversity of conference offerings.



The 2014 Conference will be hosted by Rhodes State College in Lima, Ohio, on May 8th and 9th. Rhodes State College was selected due to its central location along Interstate 75 for attendees from Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. We are grateful to Rhodes State College for offering their conference venue. Stay tuned for information about submitting a proposal, registering to attend, and lodging near the conference. We encourage members to consider sharing their wisdom and experiences by presenting in 2014. Thank you to the 2012-2013 OCTA Board for organizing this event and setting the stage for future conferences, and to our members for making the 2013 OCTA conference a success! We look forward to seeing you all next year!

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<h1>SAVE THE DATE</h1>	<p>OCTA Presents</p> <p>The 2014 Great Lakes Testing Conference</p> <p>May 8 & 9, 2014 Rhodes State College Lima, OH</p>	 <p>Tyler Marinelli OCTA Committee Chair</p>
	<p>Interested in working on the 2014 Great Lakes Testing Conference? Join the Conference Committee! Contact Tyler Marinelli (tyler.marinelli@franklin.edu)</p>	

Spotlight: Columbus State Community College

WORKING THROUGH A MERGER – How nimble are you really?

Michelle Teasley

There are multiple factors competing for the attention of today’s college students. The latest technology, obtaining a high college placement test score, actually deciding to attend college and which, college to attend, compounded with discovering their own identity and purpose to name a few. This too happens to be a major factor for many testing centers throughout academia. Centers want to meet the varying needs of faculty, approach each student in a holistic manner, yet the funding formula has changed for colleges throughout Ohio. In order to develop, College testing centers have to work harder at being relevant with fewer resources to meet the changing community and campus needs of students. At Columbus State Community College, we believe we are moving in the right direction.

The administrative team at Columbus State Community College, Michelle L. Teasley-parks, Director, Sydni Howard, Assistant Director, and James Kalna, Assistant Director, under the leadership of Desiree Polk-Bland, Dean, collaborated, developed a plan, and have now implemented, (it has actually only been three months), the *new* College Testing Services by transforming two very distinctively, different centers to meet and serve all who request testing! One operation focused mostly on vendor testing and the other one on academics. Now that these two operations have merged, each day is a matter of combing through processes and tests products (within each operation) to determine what to eliminate or maintain; staff too are attempting to learn new information and integrate traffic flow of two areas. During this process, we have been fortunate to be a very nimble team. Change is definitely a constant at the workplace today and open communication ever so necessary. Ultimately, our goal is to demonstrate how a modified budget, notable strategic initiatives, and enhanced college practices,



OCTA Past-President James Kalna, Michelle Teasley, and Sydni Howard

will be birthed through the earnest efforts of testing center personnel which will better equip the College to deliver effective and transformed services to the ever changing and dynamic students that report on our campuses.

The Department of College Testing Services-Testing Center is comprised of fourteen full time and twenty-eight part-time staff, which are responsible for administering well over one hundred thousand tests a year! We have five different locations that seat anywhere from twenty to eighty-four students in one setting. In all of our locations, we possess an environment to administer distance

Angela Zippin

OCTA Membership Chair



Spotlight a test center! OCTA is looking for test centers who have undergone recent changes, creatively responded to challenges, or have otherwise exhibited spotlight-worthiness! We’d love to hear about the great things going on in the Great Lakes region. If you know of a test center to spotlight, please contact Angela Zippin at angela.zippin@uc.edu.

Spotlight (cont.)

learning tests, placement tests, and specialized department tests which will *expand* in breadth to provide employment screening, talent assessment and exams unique to community testing needs. Hands down we absolutely enjoy knowing that we play a role in assisting a student at any juncture of their life: during their secondary education they test, while in college they test, and at some point of their career they will test. Together we are determined to reduce cost, maximize our roles and assist students on the pathway to higher education.

A few recognizable accomplishments: radical personnel changes; increase in revenue; a Centralized scheduling model; created a new position within the Center for peak periods, and one cost center. Supportive leadership is necessary for this work. As the integration of the two offices continue, it is important to understand, while on this journey, every person must participate and document all activities. Because many testing professionals are responsive, much of their work performance appears routine-- quantifying and qualifying becomes a tedious task to evaluate during this transition into one operation. Nevertheless, it is imperative that service to students is not impacted and all efforts have a primary function of propelling students' towards college readiness and success. Everyone involved is participating in some sort of on-boarding whether it is building on our strengths or an opportunity for growth.

Cindy Sproehnle
OCTA Treasurer



Say hi to Cindy Sproehnle! Cindy is the board's newest addition, serving as Treasurer of the Ohio College Testing Association. Cindy recently retired from Gateway Community and Technical College, where she was the Assessment Center director for 13 years, and currently works at Good Samaritan College of Nursing and Health Science as a Learning Specialist. She is an NCTA all-star and serves on the organization's governing board. She is also a co-founder of the Kentucky chapter of the organization, KATAC (Kentucky Association of Test Administrators at Colleges). Welcome, Cindy!



Check out the new Ohio College Testing Association website:

<http://www.ohiocta.com/>

Learn more about OCTA history, governing board, upcoming news and events, and even pay membership fees online



Jennifer Carrick
OCTA Secretary

Why join OCTA? OCTA is here to promote professional growth and communication among testing center staffs across Ohio and the surrounding region. Joining OCTA is an excellent to:

- Connect with leaders, mentors, test industry companies, and the National College Testing Association (NCTA).
- Participate in the OCTA annual conference.
- Contribute to OCTA newsletters.
- Serve on OCTA Committees and the Governing Board.
- Support the mission and goals of OCTA.

For more information on OCTA membership, contact Angela Zippin (angela.zippin@uc.edu). Membership categories are as follows:

- NCTA Member: \$30.00
- Non-NCTA member: \$45.00
- Institutional Membership up to 5 members: \$120
- Institutional Membership up to 10 members: \$240

A Little Testing Humor

A+ for creativity?

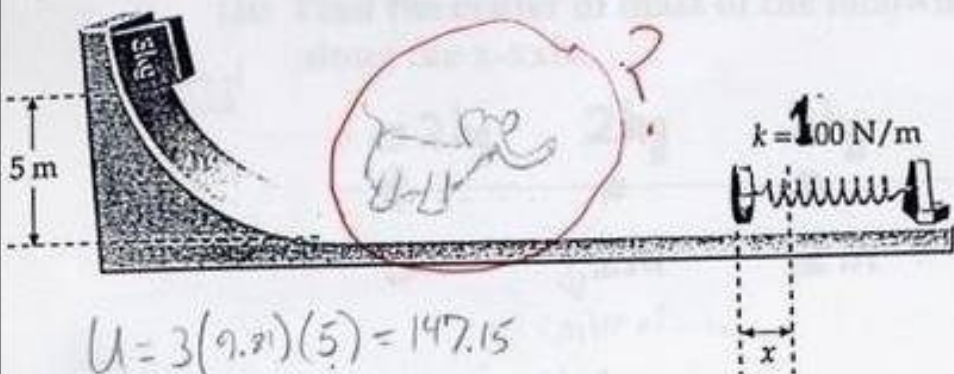
2. A 3-kg object is released from rest at a height of 5m on a curved frictionless ramp. At the foot of the ramp is a spring of force constant $k = 100 \text{ N/m}$. The object slides down the ramp and into the spring, compressing it a distance x before coming to rest.

10

(a) Find x .

5

(b) Does the object continue to move after it comes to rest? If yes, how high will it go up the slope before it comes to rest?



$$U = 3(9.81)(5) = 147.15$$

$$U_s = \frac{1}{2}(100)x^2 = 50x^2 \dots?$$

NO. there is an elephant in the way.

