

Education is another area where Belmont County can provide high quality at a low cost. Many fine local institutions of higher learning have earned respect in the region and nationwide. Businesses and industries have developed fruitful partnerships with these schools as well. The active presence of these institutions continues to advance the interests of students, educators, businesses and Belmont County residents.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Ohio University Eastern (OUE)

Ohio University was founded in 1804 and was the first institution of higher education in the Northwest Territory. The Eastern Campus was founded in 1957 and is one of five regional campuses of Ohio University serving the residents of southeastern Ohio. The campus is located on a hilltop off Exit 213 on Interstate 70, near St.Clairsville, OH. The campus has grown to over 1,100 students and the average age of undergraduate students is 24. The Eastern Campus has a combined full and part time faculty of 62. Most of the full time faculty have Ph.D. degrees in their fields.

The Eastern Campus (OUE) offers courses leading to an Associate in Arts (AA) degree and an Associate in Science (AS) degree. The campus offers baccalaureate degree programs in Early Childhood Education, Middle Childhood Education, General Business Administration, Communication, Specialized Studies, Nursing, Criminal Justice and Exercise Physiology. The campus offers selected Master's degree programs staffed by the main campus faculty. OUE offers all the general courses needed for the Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) degree, and many other major courses as well. OUE is a pioneer in offering regular classroom courses by alternate means such as radio broadcast, audio/video cassettes and satellite.

OUE constructed a multipurpose building named the Ney Center. This facility totals over 52,000 square feet and includes a gymnasium with seating for 3,500 people, a bookstore, cafeteria, exercise rooms, offices, an indoor track, and a training room. This facility is a community resource as well as a university facility. A Science and Art lab building is located on OUE's campus. OUE's campus comprises 365 acres of rolling fields, ponds, and forests. A covered bridge spans one large pond near the classroom building and a restored one-room schoolhouse is nearby, both have become tourist attractions in recent years.

OUE's low student to faculty ratio allows for greater student participation in class and more personal attention. Modest tuition and fees keep the price of an Ohio University education affordable for students. Ohio University is fully accredited and OUE credits transfer easily. Several national publications have

recognized Ohio University's assets and have voted it one of the best buys in higher education. The Ohio University Eastern Campus continues Ohio University's almost two centuries of service to the residents of Ohio and the world.

Belmont Technical College (BTC)

For over a quarter century, Belmont Technical College (BTC) has been meeting the many diverse needs of the community for which it was created. The college responds to the needs of its constituents by providing only the most current training available in each of the 32 career programs in business, health, engineering/industrial skills and public service. It has provided and continues to develop customized education for Ohio Valley businesses and industries.

Services for students include an on-campus child care center, career counseling, and placement service. Belmont Technical College's financial aid office administers federal, state, college and private financial aid programs. In an effort to assist graduating high school seniors for college preparatory, the college offers a program that guarantees nine quarters of free college tuition. For all students, tuition is among the lowest in the state and over 2,000 individuals enroll annually.

The Applied Technology and Innovation Center trains students in technologies and specialized areas such as digital electronics, CAD, industrial lasers, programmable controllers and fiber optics. Horizon Hall provides a location for community-wide events and makes possible the attraction of world-renowned artists through the New Horizon's Performing Arts series. The College's Building Preservation and Renovation program has attracted students globally. Nursing classes have enjoyed 100% placement in recent years. In the college's Continuing Community Education Department, courses range from sign language to painting and photography. BTC works closely with other colleges and universities to provide guaranteed transfer of courses with other state-financed institutions, and tuition reciprocity agreements with out-of-state colleges and universities. These agreements make it possible for area residents to receive a four-year degree. BTC students can expect the same treatment on transferring as those beginning at other colleges and universities.

As Belmont Technical College looks to the future, it is committed to training and educating a higher performance work force for the Ohio Valley and providing services, which will help improve the regional quality of life. Through its partnerships with businesses, industries and educational institutions, it will continue to play a major role in economic development. BTC has been and will continue to be the most cost-effective source of quality education and training in the area.

