



# On a roll

Cyclist finds direction at Columbus State

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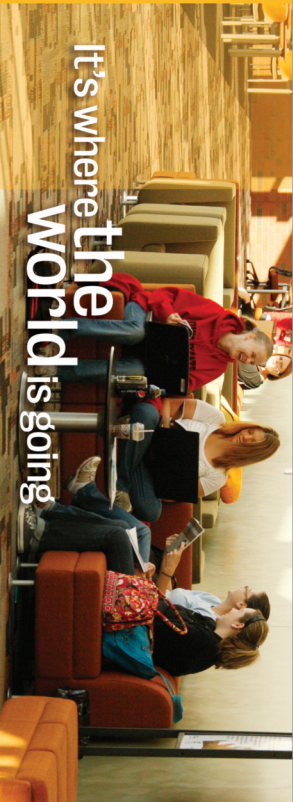
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It's where the world is going

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**A**

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# Full Speed into her future



**Jillian Dyer** shifted gears on her first day of college and pedaled off in an unexpected direction.

Always talented in art, the Grandview Heights grad was headed for art school with scholarship in tow. During orientation, however, she changed her mind and put the brakes on a career in art. "All of a sudden, it just didn't feel like what I wanted to do with the rest of my life," Jillian recalls.

So she hopped on her go-everywhere bike and found herself at Columbus State. At first, Jillian sampled classes until something clicked. "Columbus State has so many course options and great

professors that finding my road in life has been a winding journey," she says. Jillian is rolling her passions for traveling, the environment and wildlife into a career in Natural Resources Management, with a specialization in Parks and Recreation. She graduates from Columbus State soon and is **transferring her 155-plus credits to Ohio State to finish her bachelor's degree there.**

While at Columbus State, Jillian sought out activities that "took me outside my comfort zone and taught me skills I could apply to my professional life." For example, Jillian joined the college's Student Ambassador Leadership Corps and quickly lost her fear of public speaking. "When you give almost-daily tours to diverse groups of people, you get comfortable in front of a crowd," says Jillian. "I'll be doing a lot of presentations to national park visitors in the future."

As a Student Ambassador, she also took the lead in organizing informational and promotional events for biking, her transportation method of choice. "I don't even own a car anymore," Jillian reports, "and I try to educate fellow students to the fact that biking is the most energy-efficient form of transportation."

Jillian remembers initially being unsure about Columbus State as an education destination, but no longer. "Every comment I'd heard about this being a 'fall back college' came from people who hadn't tried Columbus State," she says.

**"When I compare what I've learned here to what my friends have at their more expensive schools, I'm ahead. Columbus State is a great place to start no matter what direction you end up heading."**

**Jillian Dyer**  
changed her college  
and her major  
on Day One.

# THE BIGGEST LEARNER

## Academic competition fuels web reality series



**Two teams of Columbus State students are going head-to-head for the highest GPA—and \$1,000 scholarships—and you can follow their activities online anytime.**

The four-person teams are tackling autumn quarter studies in the public eye as part of an experimental contest. The competition is designed to show students the many tools available at the college to help them succeed.

More than 150 students applied for a spot on a team, with eight making the final cut. Prior academic struggles and a desire to build better skills figured into the selection. The finalists were divided into two groups and quickly chose team names for the competition: the "A-Team" and "Team Swag."



Each Biggest Learner team receives weekly academic coaching from a Columbus State professor. And every week, contestants attend advising sessions to improve their skills in time management, test taking, writing, math, and more.

A short video is posted weekly on **Biggest Learner.com** and **cscs.edu/cstv**. Viewers can track their favorite team's progress there and leave comments on Biggest Learner **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages (use #BiggestLearner to join the conversation).

At the end of the quarter, GPAs will be tallied, and each member on the highest scoring team wins a \$1,000 scholarship. Runners-up receive a \$500 scholarship for their efforts, too. While contestants appreciate the scholarship prize, they also are eager to learn strategies from the experts—and each other—that will help them succeed in the classroom.



**Jennifer Taafe**  
member of the A-Team

The A-Team's Jennifer Taafe, who admits to partying her way out of Ohio State, appreciates the guidance she is receiving "to get back on track academically." Team Swag's Branden Rice dropped out of college after a football injury. The future mechanical engineer is a whiz in math, but finds "reading and analyzing written materials challenging." He hopes to adopt study tactics from his fellow competitors.

Log on often to follow the competition and discover which team's all-out efforts will earn them the title of The Biggest Learner.





# Techie Time Travelers

## Ancient Greece meets 21st century via cloud computing, 3D, video conferencing

Recently, some lucky Columbus State students uncovered a lot of virtual dirt on people who lived centuries ago in the Mediterranean. Assisted by cutting-edge technology, the group of Classical Mythology students experienced an archeological dig without ever lifting a trowel.



◀ **Three-way video conferencing** connected the Columbus State class with Tim Gregory, an Ohio State University professor on-site in Greece, and Jon Frey, an archeology faculty member at Michigan State University. The professors presented historical information to explain the artifacts being unearthed by students from the three institutions working the site. Meanwhile, the students, including one from Columbus State, revealed what's really cool about digging around in the past:

- the sheer excitement of discovery,
- the opportunity for hands-on learning, and
- the chance to explore and preserve a bygone society.

With the Greek island of Kythira as a backdrop for the live video conference, dig participants answered questions about their finds and suggested what the remnants of this ancient civilization might be saying to us. They also discussed the painstaking digging, sifting, brushing, and collecting that are part of any archeological dig.

Video conference concluded, class members here donned **3D glasses** to get a stereoscopic glimpse of the architectural wonders of ancient Greece. Columbus State faculty member Lita Tzortzopoulou-Gregory, part of the archeological dig staff, had created a video journal and utilized **cloud computing** to store and deliver stunning visuals of the Acropolis of Athens, including the Parthenon, and of other famous "ruins."

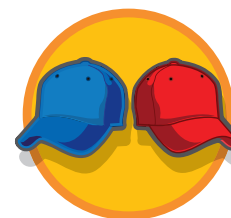
So, thanks to a **convergence of technologies**, Columbus State students were able to travel around the world and across the ages—from their seats in a campus media lounge.

# Stretch your COLLEGE CASH

## Tips to improve your scholastic \$ums



**"Shop" locally.** You can save a bundle on room and board by living at home or sharing an apartment with friends. Just be sure to formalize the arrangement so everyone knows what's expected. Investigating area colleges and universities is another cents-able strategy. A local institution, like Columbus State Community College, can offer the lowest tuition, coupled with convenient locations, abundant program and degree options, and hundreds of online classes.



**Comparison shop for the best buy.** It pays to consider multiple institutions in making your educational choice. Scour collegiate websites to discover what you're getting for the quoted price and what "hidden extras" might drive up costs. Consult online tools like the net price calculator. All colleges and universities must have this useful technology in place soon, and it should allow you to compare academia to academia. For Columbus State's net price calculator, see [csc.edu/calculator](http://csc.edu/calculator).



**Like coupons, scholarships add up.** If you qualify, apply! Start with your parents' employers or professional affiliations. Many companies offer a scholarship open to the children of employees. And most colleges and universities fund scholarships, too. Columbus State offers or coordinates more than \$3 million in scholarships for recent high school graduates, students aged 25 and over, and almost every age and interest. Check out [csc.edu/scholarships](http://csc.edu/scholarships).

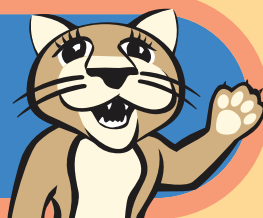


**Try on first for the right "fit."** One size does not fit all when it comes to higher education. Visit the top choices on your list. Look closely at academic programs, faculty, and facilities. Will credits transfer to another institution, if that's your plan? Does the technology support the academics? Are student services and co-curricular activities easy to access? Can you see yourself at this college? Do you feel comfortable on campus and at college activities? If the answer's an unqualified "yes," you've found the right place. Try on Columbus State for size by scheduling a tour at [csc.edu/tours](http://csc.edu/tours).



# Cougar Bites

## Info to go about Columbus State



### Destination Scholarship

You won't need a GPS or complicated coordinates to locate a college scholarship at Columbus State. Simply apply online for one of the Partnership, SUCCESS or Tech Prep scholarships **available to 2012 high school grads**. Visit [www.csc.edu/FinancialAid](http://www.csc.edu/FinancialAid) for details and deadlines.

If you're interested in majoring in science, technology, engineering or math, you can get **two years of paid tuition plus lots of extras** (how does a free iPad sound?) through the Future Scientists of Ohio Scholarship Program. Funded by grants from the National Science Institute and the Ohio Board of Regents through the Choose Ohio First initiative, the FSOSP aims to keep Ohio's young scientists in Ohio. To find out if you qualify for this incredible scholarship program, visit [www.csc.edu/FutureScientists](http://www.csc.edu/FutureScientists).



### Follow Preferred Pathway to a Degree

Preferred Pathway, a unique transfer partnership between Columbus State Community College and The Ohio State University, offers area students the **most direct, most affordable route to a bachelor's degree**.

As a Preferred Pathway student, you begin your journey at Columbus State, following a pre-set curriculum tied to your degree interests. Once you complete the pre-major coursework here, you merge seamlessly into a corresponding degree program there. You are guaranteed admission to Ohio State and are fully prepared to finish your undergraduate studies. What's more, your OSU degree will cost you a fraction of what it would have thanks to:

- 1 Columbus State's affordable tuition your first two years and
- 2 The Preferred Pathway Program's directed curriculum.

Scholarly Bonus: Full-time students who qualify as **Preferred Pathway Scholars** (P3 Scholars) enjoy additional benefits as they work toward their degrees. Extras like dual orientation, joint advising, and access to many campus facilities and activities at both institutions. For more information about Preferred Pathway and its scholars program, visit [www.csc.edu/preferredpathway](http://www.csc.edu/preferredpathway).

# a lot to like in Gahanna



**New location, space, student services**

“Wow we have a computer lab now and it's open on Sunday!”

“I love that the center is so close by and has tons of parking.”

“It's great to have advisors on-site and accessible.”

Over the summer, Columbus State moved its Gahanna Regional Learning Center across the street ... and into a new era.

The college claimed prime first-floor space in the new **Clark Hall, at 380 Granville St**. The Gahanna Center has six classrooms (one with video conferencing technology), **a computer lab**, 54-unit testing center and plenty of parking. Two **full-time advisors** are working out of the center, and they can answer questions related to financial aid and admissions in addition to helping you plan a program of study.

The Gahanna Center's **spacious testing center** has been busy with COMPASS testing so far and will eventually become a full-service testing center. This means that soon distance learning students will have another option for completing placement testing and course-related exams without traveling to the Downtown or Delaware campuses.

Because of its user-friendly location (across from the DQ!) and course offerings, the Gahanna Center is **a great place to start on a bachelor's degree or to schedule classes that become crowded elsewhere**. For example, fall quarter students chose from general education courses in Mathematics, English, Humanities, Social Sciences, Psychology and Developmental Education. Or to prepare for entry into the workforce, they could schedule classes in Business Management, Real Estate (including the Realtor training sequence), Computer Science and Early Childhood Development.

In Clark Hall, Columbus State is sharing space with Gahanna Lincoln High School juniors and seniors and Eastland-Fairfield Career Center students. Many of these students take college classes through the Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) program, which allows students to earn college credits while still in high school.

The Gahanna Center is open Monday – Saturday; the computer lab also opens from 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Sundays. Call **(614) 476-4711** for information.

