

Chillicothe Gazette

OU-C's actions demonstrate role in community

It often has been said that actions speak louder than words. This axiom especially rings true with regard to two recent events that speak more eloquently than a volume of speeches ever could when it comes to discussing the essence of Ohio University-Chillicothe's role in this region.

The first event, College Night, emphasizes the Chillicothe campus' mission of providing a gateway to promise for area residents. On a recent evening, OU-C's Shoemaker Center was packed as area high school students surveyed the options of more than 40 colleges and universities, including the Chillicothe and Athens campuses of Ohio University.

College Night, in so many ways, emphasizes OU-C's access mission in helping area residents utilize higher education to realize their ambitions. No matter what campus they eventually might attend, we hope that our neighbors will feel comfortable beginning their college careers on the Chillicothe campus. We are here to answer questions about the admissions and financial aid processes so that students can get off on the right foot with their college journeys.

If they select OU-C as their college home, we are happy to support these students

throughout their college careers. We also are here to offer the resources for students who want to get a good foundation at an affordable price, then relocate to another campus. And we also are happy to assist those students from the area who decide to follow their college ambitions elsewhere by addressing general questions they have about the admission process. That type of good-neighbor approach is part of the role of a regional campus.

The other event, Heritage Day, allowed for the campus to celebrate its legacy of engagement with the region. It was refreshing and enlightening to speak with individuals from the community who have been such a large part of OU-C's success. When we celebrate the good fortune of the Chillicothe campus, we actually are toasting this entire region.

As I have often shared since joining the campus community, I have been impressed by how closely aligned the campus and community are. For 65 years, the Chillicothe campus and this region have been part of a successful partnership to uphold the quality of life for area residents. In many ways, this partnership defines OU-C.

We want to be a regional campus in every sense of the word. Most of our students are

from this region, and many eventually return to their hometowns as proven professionals and community leaders after graduation.

While 65 generally is considered retirement age, that rule does not hold true for the Ohio University-Chillicothe campus. Buoyed by the vibrancy and energy of this region, this campus shows no signs of slowing down.

In moving forward, our actions, more than our words, will continue to define Ohio University-Chillicothe and the region it serves as we put our mission into motion.

Tuck is the interim dean of the Ohio University-Chillicothe campus.