

Jo Alice Blondin, Ph.D.
President of Clark State College

Jo Alice Blondin, Ph.D., became the fifth President of Clark State College in July 2013 and has served in this role for 13 years.

Her accomplishments are numerous, impactful and far-reaching. During her tenure, to date, Clark State has:

- Invested more than \$40 million in technology and infrastructure to enhance the student experience and ensure operational excellence;
 - Grown its federal and state grants portfolio by nearly \$25 million and its Foundation from \$13 million to more than \$30 million;
 - Added four baccalaureate degrees to its academic program offerings including manufacturing technology management, web development and design, addiction and integrated treatment studies and a bachelor of science in nursing;
 - Expanded the Clark State campus footprint at Ohio Hi Point Career Center in Bellefontaine and the Xenia location;
 - Added and enhanced many workforce responsive programs in high-tech, in-demand fields such as modeling and simulation, laser materials processing and photonics, cybersecurity, semiconductor technology, precision agriculture and diagnostic medical sonography;
 - Developed, led and implemented four successive and successful strategic plans;
 - Grown the State Share of Instruction state funding by 60 percent;
 - Partnered with the Global Impact STEM Academy to build its new upper academy on Clark State's Springfield Leffel Lane campus, with plans for further expansion;
 - Raised the national profile of Clark State as a leader in student success and innovation;
 - Founded and led the nationally-recognized SOAR (Serving Our Own Through Advancement and Retention Program) mentoring program to develop future leaders in student success;
 - Invested in the new City of Springfield Fire Station with Clark State contributing approximately \$1.3 million toward the facility, making the college one of the only community colleges in the nation to house student labs in a working fire station.
- Welcomed military, veterans and their spouses to campus by offering a 50 percent tuition discount, as well as tailored support services for these students including the SALUTE Honor Society, Fallen Warrior Memorial, Veterans' Lounge, Purple Heart Campus Designation, and countless ways to honor

and support those who have served our country. As a result, Clark State has been recognized as the number one Military-Friendly and Military-Spouse Friendly Small to Medium Community College in the nation for the past two years.

But at the center of these accomplishments lie the students and employees. Her passion for the success of Clark State, its students and its employees is not only seen, but felt.

She founded the nationally recognized SOAR (Serving Our Own Through Advancement and Retention) mentoring program, personally mentoring dozens of employees and cultivating the next generation of leaders. She championed shared governance, inclusive leadership and trauma-informed practices — ensuring that Clark State remained both innovative and humane.

Her leadership was perhaps most visible during times of challenge. During the pandemic, Clark State remained strong — classes continued, employees were retained without pay reductions, students received emergency relief quickly and strategic investments positioned the college to emerge stronger than before.

Prior to becoming president of Clark State, Blondin served as chancellor of Arkansas Tech University - Ozark Campus where she increased enrollment from 250 students in 2004 to 2,200 in 2013. Her other academic roles include chief academic officer and chief student officer at Arkansas Tech University-Ozark Campus. Blondin was a professor of English at Arkansas Tech University, associate professor of English at the University of Arkansas – Fort Smith and faculty associate at Arizona State University. She earned her bachelor of arts in English with a minor in Spanish from Purdue University and her master's and doctorate in 18th Century British Literature from Arizona State University.

Her honors and awards include being named the National and Regional Community College CEO/President of 2023 by the Association of Community College Trustees, the 2018 CEO/Board Relations Award Winner by the American Association of Community Colleges, a 2024 “Woman Who Means Business” by the Dayton Business Journal, the 2023 Dayton Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Ethics in Business, the 2023 Healthcare Hero Award for her work in addiction studies, the 2022 Women’s Partnership Fund of Clark County Extraordinary Women Award and the 2021 Dayton Business Journal Outstanding Diversity Champion Award.

Named one of Dayton’s Most Influential Women nine times, she has served as the Board Chair for numerous national organizations, including the Higher Learning Commission, the National Council for Workforce Education and the Community College Alliance for Agricultural Advancement. She is the current chair of the Ohio Association of Community College Presidents and the vice chair for the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education. She currently serves on the boards of the Dayton Development Coalition, the Springfield Partnership and the Rocking Horse Community Health Center.

