

## History of Shawnee State



The history of Shawnee State dates all the way back to 1945, when Ohio University established an academic center in Portsmouth, for a high school. Sixteen years after its establishment, the OU Academic Center moved to Griffin Hall on Second Street. By 1967, \$350,000 was raised through the Ohio University Development Fund, and the land that would be the future Shawnee State campus was purchased. In 1974, the Scioto Technical College and the Ohio University of Portsmouth merged to form Shawnee State General and Technical College. The campus began to expand over the years, adding a Business and Engineering building, an Allied Health building, a Student Center and an Administrative building.

In 1986, Shawnee State was finally created. On April 2, 1986 the bill was signed by Gov. Richard Celeste, becoming a law on July 2. Shawnee State is currently the newest state supported university in Ohio. Following its establishment, the official Shawnee state mascot was renamed the Shawnee State Bears in 1988, replacing the previous Rangers. In 1989, Dr. Catherine Roberts became the first president of a state university in Ohio when she was named president of Shawnee State University. An

Advanced technology center was added in 1991, becoming an add on to the Vern Riffe Jr. Engineering Technology Building. A center of the arts was built, and along with it came four new degrees: Ceramics, Painting, Drawing and Studio Arts. In 2008 ground was broken for the renovation and expansion of the University Center. In 2010, a motion capture studio was officially dedicated. Shawnee State University is recognized as a Center of Excellence in Immersive Technology, and has been ranked highly for 6 years in a row.