



## **Belmont Technical College Launches Semester Conversion**

*'Bridge to Semesters' Conversion from a Quarterly Schedule to Academic Semesters Will Ease Course Transfer for Students, Aid in Scheduling; Curriculum under New Calendar Begins Fall 2012*

**St. Clairsville, OH (May 18, 2010)**—Officials at Belmont Technical College (BTC) today celebrated the launch of a two-year process that will result in the college converting from its current quarterly academic calendar to a semester-based calendar. The transition promises to provide for a more seamless transfer of students' academic credit from BTC to other semester-based institutions, as well as aid in the scheduling of classes for students who are enrolled in more than one institution or those who must schedule classes around their employment schedule.

The conversion will be complete with the semester curriculum beginning in Fall 2012. The new schedule will include both a fall and spring semester, with two summer sessions and a mini-semester between fall and spring.

"In addition to easing the transfer of credits from one institution to the other, the new semester schedule provides more scheduling options for students that may allow them to complete their programs in a timelier manner," said Becki Kurtz, Ph.D., BTC Vice President of Learning and Student Success. "It also offers greater flexibility for students to recover if they get out of sequence or if they need to catch up on remedial or pre-requisite courses."

The semester conversion is part of the overall 10-year strategic plan put forth by the Ohio Board of Regents to standardize the academic calendar for the entire University System of Ohio. By the fall of 2012, all two-year and 4-year colleges will have fully implemented semester calendars.

At BTC, the semester calendar will extend each term by as much as five weeks, allowing students more time to learn course materials and may even provide opportunities for more in-depth study than currently offered.

As part of the conversion, Kurtz said the entire curriculum will be redesigned to fit with the new schedule, which may result in the merging of some courses or the creation of new ones as the college updates its programs.

"This is a major step in the evolution of Belmont Technical College as a state-of-the-art community and technical college," Kurtz said. "Not only will it aid in the academic success of our students, but it will enable us to be more responsive to the community and local employers in designing and delivering new programs that meet their needs for education and job training."

BTC officially kicked off the conversion to semesters with an on-campus celebration that included a barbecue lunch for students and other activities.

For more information about BTC, visit [www.btc.edu](http://www.btc.edu).

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