

"When we take the graduation rate of the highest Achieving the Dream College and add to it the transfer rate of the highest Achieving the Dream College on that measure, we get a combined rate of 60 percent. Therefore, we can say that College of the Ouachitas has done a tremendous job of improving student success over the last five years."

Carol Lincoln  
Senior Vice President  
Achieving the Dream  
Silver Springs, Maryland  
U.S. Federal Reserve Bank Symposium  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
July 21, 2011



*A higher degree of you.*

coto.edu  
(501) 337-5000 • (800) 337-0266  
One College Circle  
Malvern, Arkansas 72104



COLLEGE  
OF  
THE  
OUACHITAS



Succeeding with Student Success  
2006-2011



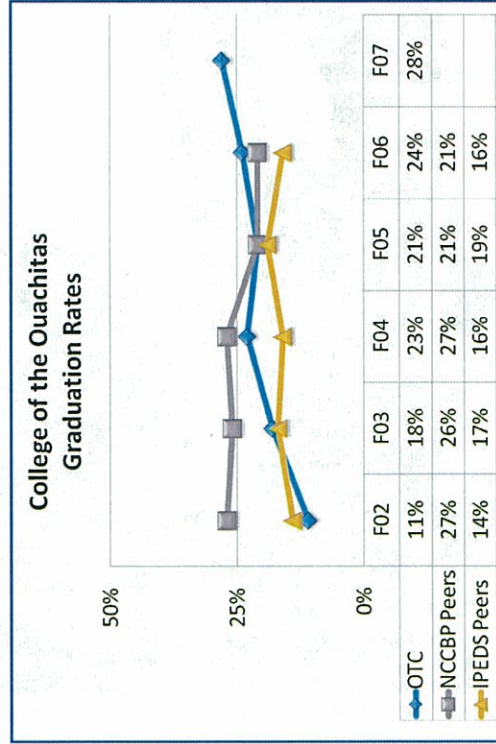
# COLLEGE OF THE OUACHITAS, MALVERN, ARKANSAS

## JOB ONE = STUDENT SUCCESS

College of the Ouachitas' faculty and staff have much of which to be proud. The College recently celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service to the community, has implemented a new name to better communicate its mission, adopted a new logo and seal to mark the next era, and has achieved reaffirmation of accreditation with the Higher Learning Commission (HLC-NCA). Additionally, the College earned top-performer recognition for its Career Pathways Initiative, thus receiving incentive funds to expand this successful program. For the past five years, the College has participated in the Achieving the Dream Initiative, a grant program that lead to modified educational strategies improving student success and establishing a culture of evidence for decision-making.

## THE BEST IMPROVEMENT OF ALL – STUDENT SUCCESS

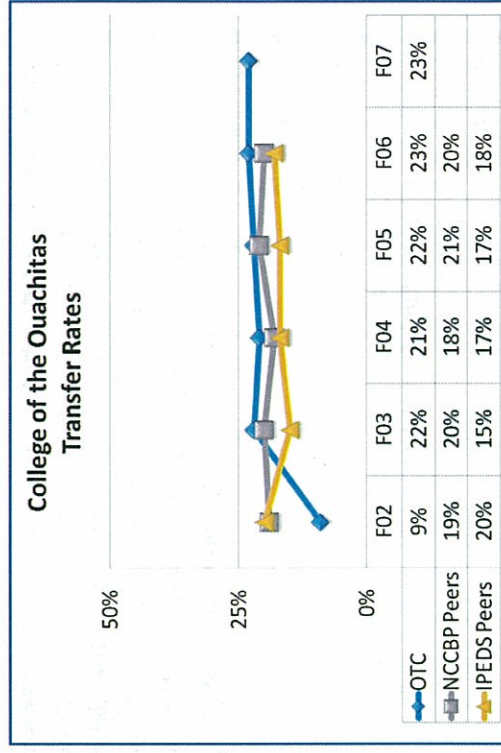
The College's many improvements have contributed to increased student success. Indicators and measurements of student success include graduation and transfer rates. In 2002, the College's graduation rate was 11 percent and the transfer rate was 9 percent for a combined rate of 20 percent. Review of peer group data clearly indicated that COTO was underperforming. Five years later, after changing literally hundreds of policies, procedures, methods, and courses, the efforts of the College's faculty and staff have resulted in tremendous rates of improvement. Currently, the combined graduation



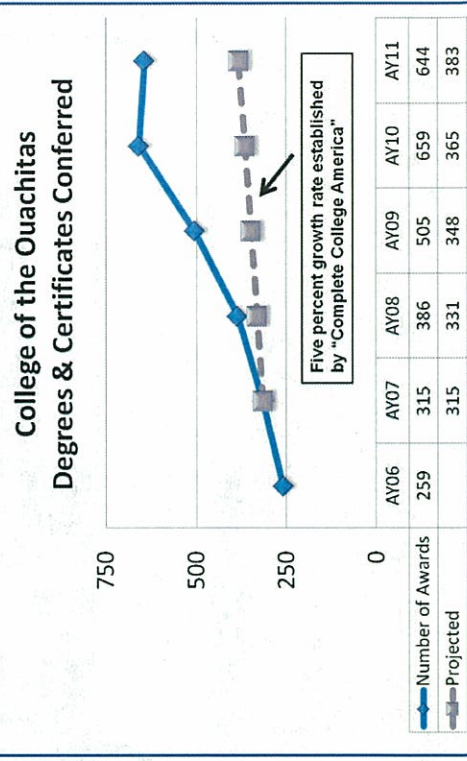
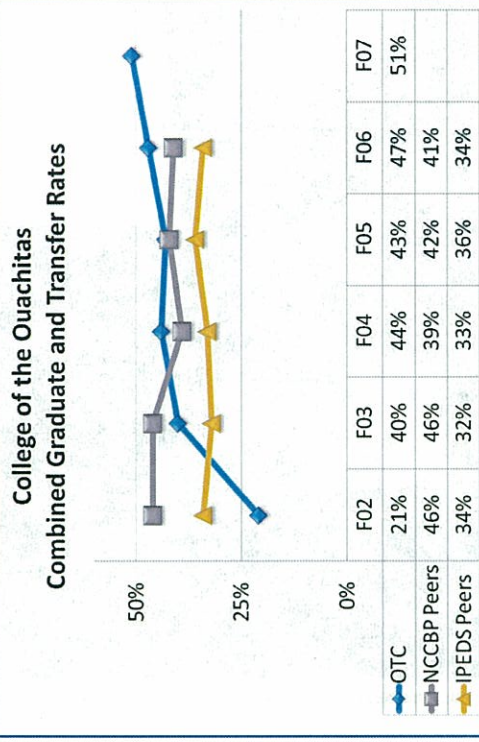
and transfer rate is 51 percent, significantly higher than peer groups that include the U.S. Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) and the National Community College Benchmarking Project (NCCBP). In fact, this rate of improvement is

greater than any institution in Arkansas.

In Academic Year 2011, 537 students graduated with 644 associate degrees and certificates. Many more students now



get to the finish line. Successful students do a successful college make.



Barry Ballard,  
President  
Nov. 17, 2011