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STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Rick D. Ritzler, from Galena, Delaware County, Ohio, as a Member of the Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees for a new term beginning September 1, 2023 and ending at the close of business August 31, 2029, replacing Rick D. Ritzler, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 1st day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

*Mike DeWine*

Mike DeWine  
Governor

Rick Ritzler is the Chief Talent Officer at **G2O**, the largest privately held digital experience consulting firm in Ohio. Since joining **G2O** in 1998, Rick is credited with building, training and managing a highly productive, well-respected team of talent acquisition and engagement professionals who support the company's managed services and staff augmentation divisions. His team's ability to source, recruit, develop and retain talented professionals has been key to **G2O's** success, resulting in long-term, trusted-advisor relationship with leading brands including The Gap, Chemical Abstract Services, M/I Homes, M&T Bank, Bread Financial, and the State of Ohio.

Rick's recruiting philosophy has remained consistent throughout his 20+ years of industry experience: this includes an emphasis on recruiting fundamentals, the development of diverse candidate networks, a focus on the long-term, the discipline of prioritization, adoption of new technologies/tools, and a commitment to recruiter ethics and transparency.

In addition to his efforts in the field of technology talent acquisition, Rick spends significant time promoting both STEM education and high-tech immigration programs necessary to keep Ohio businesses competitive. He served as a member of the Board of Trustees at Columbus State Community College, helping shape workforce development programs that ensure a jobs-ready talent pipeline for Central Ohio.

He also worked with the Ohio Department of Education on the itWORKS OHIO Technical Content Standards for Information Technology Curriculum, and **G2O's** efforts in STEM education and training received a commendation from the Ohio Secretary of State's office in 2017. As a member of the TechServe Alliance Government Affairs Team, he regularly lobbied at the state and national level for expansion of high-skilled immigration programs for STEM workers on behalf of staffing and consulting businesses throughout Ohio.

Rick began his career in the retained executive search field, providing targeted research and recruiting to a wide variety of Fortune 1000 and Big Six Accounting firms, including Ernst & Young, Coopers & Lybrand and Victoria's Secret.

He graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism, and resides in Galena, Ohio with his wife and two children.

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Appointment Date:** 9/1/2023

**Name of Appointee:** Rick D. Ritzler  
**Address:** 5367 Bayside Ridge Drive  
Galena, OH 43021  
Delaware County  
(H) – 6145955176  
(W) – 6145233070  
(M) – 6145955176  
(E) – rritzler@icct.com

**Name of Commission:** Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees  
Vickie Hunter, Executive Assistant to the President  
Office of the President  
550 E. Spring Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
(614) 287-2402  
vhunter@cscce.edu

**Term Begins:** 9/1/2023  
**Term Ends:** 8/31/2029  
**Party Affiliation:** Independent  
**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate  
**Financial Disclosure:** Confidential disclosure required  
**Vice:** Rick D. Ritzler



**Ohio Senate**  
Senate Building  
Room 34, Ground Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 644-7718  
[Cirino@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:Cirino@ohiosenate.gov)

**Committees:**  
Workforce and Higher Education – Chair  
Finance – Vice Chair  
Energy and Public Utilities  
Ways and Means

**Jerry C. Cirino**  
18th District

Dear Newly Appointed Trustee,

I would like to be one of the first to congratulate you on your recent appointment as trustee to one of Ohio's public universities or community colleges. Service as a trustee is of utmost importance to the students and citizens of Ohio who save and pay for higher education in our state. Your work as a trustee ensures that students receive an education that will lead to future employment and success, both of which are important pieces to the economic health of our state. As a trustee, you have the authority and responsibility to safeguard students' wellbeing and the duty to protect their constitutional freedoms. You are also a steward of upholding Ohio's historical commitment to higher education.

I am writing today to provide information on the appointment process going forward. The Ohio Senate, as provided in Article III, Section 21 of the Ohio Constitution, has advice-and-consent authority regarding gubernatorial appointments. Your appointment will be assigned a confirmation hearing in the Senate Workforce and Higher Education Committee ("Committee"). As part of this process, you are asked to complete the attached questionnaire. You may also be asked to meet with Committee members or attend a hearing.

With respect to the questionnaire, I ask that you thoughtfully answer each question and submit your responses to my office within 30 days of receipt so that your confirmation may proceed and your appointment completed. A confirmation hearing will not be scheduled until a completed questionnaire has been submitted. Once my office receives this information, we will work diligently to schedule your appointment on the Committee's agenda. If you have any questions about this process or would like an update on the status of your appointment, please contact my office at 614-644-7718.

Sincerely,

Jerry C. Cirino  
State Senator, District 18  
Chair, Workforce and Higher Education Committee

# Ohio Senate Advice and Consent

## Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Name: Rick Ritzler

Institution Being Appointed to:

Columbus State Community College Board of Trustees

1. Are you a graduate of or do any of your dependents attend the institution to which you are being appointed as trustee?

Yes - my son Ty Ritzler is taking classes this year as part of the College Credit Plus program at Olentangy Berlin High School

2. What is your position on the First Amendment rights of faculty, staff, and students, and how will you balance this with promoting diversity of thought on campus?

All of the parties mentioned enjoy First Amendment protections while on campus, as long as they do not significantly disrupt the functioning of the college or violate school policies. College campuses provide an important opportunity for students to practice free expression and become exposed to varying viewpoints.

3. In your opinion, what are three current significant issues affecting higher education?

1. Affordability/total current cost of a bachelors degree, 2. General awareness of the multiple high-demand career paths and trades available to Ohio students and adult-learners, 3. Tighter partnerships between business community and higher education institutions to build short and long-term pathways to good jobs.

4. Do you feel comfortable presenting new or alternative solutions to issues presented to the Board of Trustees ("Board") by the president or other trustees of the institution to which you are being appointed?

Yes. As this would be my second term as a Trustee, I have always felt encouraged and appreciated to present new ideas or question existing practices.

5. What are some ideas you plan to propose to reduce the overall cost of higher education?

Continued expansion of digital textbooks and class materials; promotion and education of high school students on College Credit Plus and Preferred Pathways programs that both accelerate degree attainment and reduce overall tuition costs; Expansion of certificate/boot camp/micro-

credentials, in partnership with industry, that provide a quicker path to a sustainable wage, and access to employer tuition reimbursement programs.

6. What thoughts do you have on faculty tenure, post-tenure review, and annual faculty performance reviews?

While all programs can have debatable pros and cons, faculty tenure, as I have experienced it personally, tends to support the upholding of academic freedom and encouragement of research and innovation. Periodic post-tenure review by a group of peers and administrators provides a check and balance. Annual faculty performance reviews are also valuable, including the voice of the student.

7. What are your thoughts on ways to increase graduation rates at the institution to which you have been appointed?

As stated previously, overall efforts to address affordability are key; Student support services that reduce students leaving school prior to completion are also important - including academic counseling/coaching, addressing food and housing insecurity, and affordable childcare options near campus for student-parents. Academic intervention for freshman who are deficient in English and Math has also proven effective in improving retention rates 1st year to 2nd year.

8. Is higher education in Ohio addressing the current and future workforce needs of our state, and how can the institution you have been appointed to better address these workforce challenges?

Yes but there is always more to do. We need to double down on the areas with the greatest projected demand for our community, and that align with our strengths (nimble, collaborative, inclusive). This includes expansion of programs in modern manufacturing for E-vehicles and chip fabrication, skilled trades in construction, and healthcare.

9. In your view, who are you ultimately responsible to serve as a trustee of the institution you have been appointed to: the president, Board chairperson, or taxpayers of Ohio?

The taxpayers of Ohio.

**Please complete and return this form either by email at [sd18@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:sd18@ohiosenate.gov) or mail the completed form to:**

**Senator Jerry C. Cirino  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215**