



For Immediate Release  
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## **Rhodes State College Student Named Top State New Century Scholar**

LIMA, Ohio -- Rhodes State College student, Ellyn J. Schmiesing of Sidney was recently named the Ohio 2012 New Century Scholar. Selection was based on her score earned in the All-USA Community College Academic Team competition, which included more than 1,700 applications from over 800 community colleges across the nation. Judges consider grades, leadership, activities and most importantly, how students extend their intellectual talents beyond the classroom. Schmiesing is the first Rhodes State College to receive this prestigious award

As a first-generational student, Schmiesing is an Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) and Human Services dual major with an ultimate goal of obtaining a Doctorate of Occupational Therapy. She is a Newman Student Outreach member, the Ohio AgrAbility Program Coordinator for Auglaize, Mercer, Logan and Shelby counties, and actively involved in student activities on campus. While a full-time student at Rhodes, she is in the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and has been on the dean's list for 11 quarters.

"Ellyn was invested in her education by taking responsibility for it and putting in long hours working hard at it! She was not driven merely by obtaining a degree, but knowing she was beginning her pursuit of a lifelong profession," said Diane S. Haller, Interim Chair of Human Services.

As a New Century Scholar, Schmiesing will receive a \$2,000 scholarship, pen and plaque, and will be recognized in the April 23, 2012, edition of USA TODAY. In addition, she will join Rhodes State College President Debra McCurdy and OTA Chair Ann Best and attend the American Association of Community Colleges Convention in Orlando, Florida April 22-24. On April 23, Schmiesing, along with the other 51 New Century Scholars, will be honored at the New Century Scholars evening reception.

The New Century Scholars program and All-USA Community College Academic Team, which is presented by USA TODAY and Phi Theta Kappa and sponsored by Follett Higher Education Group, share a common application and together recognize outstanding community college students. New Century Scholars are the highest scoring students in each state, plus one student from Canada and one additional student chosen from among one of the remaining seven sovereign nations where Phi Theta Kappa is represented internationally.

“Ellyn is most deserving of being recognized. Not only does she excel in all academic and clinical coursework, she has proven her commitment of service, leadership and compassion for others through her extra-curricular work...serving as the Vice-President for the Rhodes OTA Student Club, attending the Ohio Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and establishing a collaboration to help community farmers who have been injured to return to their occupation of farming...an occupational therapy ideal! This is an exceptional tribute to Ellyn and Rhodes State College,” said Ann Best, Chair, OTA.

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