

OZARKS TECHNICAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OTC's Fire Science program earns international accreditation

Ozarks Technical Community College's Fire Science Technology program has earned accreditation from the International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC), making it the only IFSAC-accredited program in Missouri and one of approximately 40 in the world.

IFSAC accredits certification and degree programs throughout the world, which means the OTC program will be recognized internationally. The accreditation is valid for five years.

"For our students this means they can go any where in the world and their A.A.S. degree from OTC will be recognized. The College has spent a great deal of time and significant funds to develop the fire science program. IFSAC was very complimentary about our programs and our plans for the future," said Dan Whisler, fire instructor at OTC.

"Having been in the fire service profession in this area for the last 30 years, the accreditation by IFSAC is a milestone for not just the College, but for our students and the fire service in this area."

The IFSAC accreditation should give OTC's fire science students a greater opportunity for fire service related positions in this area and around the world.

"We have always known we've had a high quality fire science program with highly qualified instructors. Now we're able to prove it," said Dr. Hal L. Higdon, president of Ozarks Technical Community College.

The Ozarks Technical Community College system offers associate degrees and certificates in a variety of technical, allied health, and two-year transfer degree programs, as well as workforce development opportunities and community enrichment courses. Classes are available at six locations throughout southwest Missouri, including the option to earn a complete associate degree online. A degree can be completed in two years or less, at a fraction of the cost of many area colleges. For more information or to register for classes, visit www.otc.edu or call (417) 447-7500.

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