

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2026



Invest in a Student's Future: Support Owens Scholarships

Every student deserves the chance to succeed, and with your support, more students can. Each year, the Owens Community College Foundation awards approximately \$250,000 in scholarships, helping students overcome financial barriers and stay focused on their academic and career goals.

Scholarships are made possible by alumni, businesses and community members who believe in the power of education. Donors may contribute to an existing fund or create a new scholarship to honor a loved one, celebrate a passion or support a specific program.

Recently, a new scholarship was established honoring former women's basketball player Jennifer Versey Copley — a beautiful example of how generosity creates lasting legacies.

Every gift, at any level, directly changes lives.

To learn more, visit
owens.edu/foundation/establishing



Owens Foundation Welcomes New Board Members

The Owens Community College Foundation is thrilled to welcome two outstanding new members to its Board of Directors, **Carol Anderson** and **Elias Hajjar**. Together, they bring a wealth of professional experience and a shared passion for education and community impact.



Anderson, an Owens alumna, earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the University of Toledo and is currently Head of Global Human Resources at Geoforce, Inc. A dedicated community servant, she also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers Big Sisters and Lucas County Children Services.

"Owens plays a critical role in providing accessible, workforce-focused education that creates real opportunity for students at every stage of life," Anderson said. "I feel a responsibility to give back to an institution that strengthens our regional economy and opens doors for so many."

Hajjar, a Hospitality Management graduate of Ohio State University, is the founder and owner of several beloved Toledo-area restaurants, including Poco Piatti, Koala Berry Frozen Yogurt and Stone Cut Bistro. He looks forward to drawing on his entrepreneurial experience to support and strengthen Owens' culinary program.

"I'm looking forward to bringing my years of experience and expertise to the students at Owens," Hajjar said.

We are excited to see the energy, expertise and community commitment Anderson and Hajjar bring to the Foundation.

Owens Photography Professor Honored for Artistic Excellence

Owens Community College Photography Professor Ruth Foote recently earned a prestigious Merit Award from the Arts Commission of Toledo, and she wasted no time turning the recognition into a lesson for her students.



Foote's award began with a simple decision: show up. Despite a demanding year, she displayed her work at Toledo's Artomatic 419 Festival, sparking a conversation that led to her award-winning application.

"I shared with students ... what happens had I not shown up? I just put the work out there, was there to then have that conversation, and then follow up with putting in the application. It wouldn't happen had I not shown up," Foote said.

"It doesn't always lead to awards, but consistency and doing stuff, hopefully, that's something I can share with students, that kind of encouragement and the perseverance of sticking with something. And that sometimes good things happen."

A professor at Owens since 2003, Foote teaches credit courses in Creative Arts and Media and also leads Work & Play continuing education classes, welcoming hobbyists and photography enthusiasts of all skill levels into the craft she loves.



Owens Shines at Toledo AAF Addy Awards

Owens Community College had a remarkable showing at the Toledo American Advertising Federation Addy Awards, with 25 students from Visual Communication Technology and Commercial Photography earning recognition, and the Strategic Marketing and Communications Office bringing home four awards of its own.

In the student categories, Alora Moore received a prestigious Judge's Choice Award. Jacob Roberts, Hailey Cordell and Caleb Parrish earned Gold Addy Awards. Silver Addy Awards went to Gaven Hafner, Mady Cleland, Lucas Sells, Anisa Zafer, Lillian King, Danielle Klee, Bryce Weaver, Christoson Thang, Ava Cook, Elijah Stimmage, Emma Hough, James Cooper, Michael Cotterman, Brady Buhrow, Gardayee Walker, Nikolas Neceski, Shannel Rowe, Nakiya White, Samuel Wiggins, Sofia Santellana and Sophronia Ball. Students were guided by professor Ruth Foote, professor Carey Marten, and faculty member Emily Obereder.

The marketing office's standout entry, *"Alex and Alex: A Transfer Story"* — produced with Madhouse Films — earned Gold in the Online/Interactive Internet Commercial category and recently made its network TV debut during the Super Bowl.

Three Silver Awards rounded out the office's haul, recognizing the 60th Anniversary Commercial Series, the redesigned [owens.edu](https://www.owens.edu) homepage and *"Hello Owens,"* the office's first entirely in-house Addy win since 2012. Since 2023, the marketing office has earned 22 awards across regional and national competitions, a testament to the creativity and excellence thriving at Owens.

Support the Student Emergency Assistance Fund

Sometimes, life gets in the way. An unexpected car repair, a past-due utility bill or a childcare gap can derail even the most dedicated student. The Owens Community College Foundation's Student Emergency Assistance Fund exists for exactly those moments, providing eligible students with up to \$500 to help them navigate financial hardships and stay on track for graduation.

The Fund is supported entirely through contributions made by community members, faculty and staff who believe that a temporary setback shouldn't define a student's future.

Your gift can be the bridge a student needs to keep going. Visit owens.edu/foundation/annualgiving-form, designate your donation to the Student Emergency Assistance Fund and make a difference today.



From Deputy Sheriff to Storybook Author

Erin Logue's life has never fit neatly into a single title. Retired Lucas County Deputy Sheriff, Owens Criminal Justice adjunct professor, substitute teacher ... and now, published children's author.

Drawing on 28 years in law enforcement and her experience helping raise three boys in a blended family, Logue has written two illustrated children's books: *"The Day My Dad Got Remarried I Was Scared"* and *"My Stepmom Is a Police Officer."* Both explore the emotions children navigate through family change: fear, resilience, love and bravery.

Published in partnership with Storytime Publishers of California, the beautifully illustrated books are designed for readers ages 5-10.

Logue is already working on her next project, a historical memoir about her grandmother, a World War II nurse.

"It's never too late to begin something new," Logue said.

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