

# OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2024

## Alumni Spotlight



(left-right): [Tom Daniels](#), [Dr. Dione D. Somerville](#), [Lesa M. Swimmer](#), [Melanie L. Dunn](#), [Dee Talmage](#), [Sarah R. Heldmann](#), [Dr. David W. Seeger](#), and [Glenn E. Houck Jr.](#)

The inaugural inductees of the [Alumni Hall of Fame Awards](#) were recognized for their professional achievement, advocacy for education, and proud representation of Owens in our community and beyond at [Creative Expressions](#) on April 20, 2024.

Celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Center for Fine and Performing Arts, the gala showcased the arts through performance and visual artistry, including a silent auction and interactive creative activities, while guests enjoyed a three-course meal. Over \$9,000 was raised to support the endowed Performance Award Funds for students who are pursuing a career in the area of Fine and Performing Arts.

In the coming months, Alumni Hall of Fame Honorable Mentions will be featured in the alumni newsletter. All nominees will be considered for three years following their nomination. [Nominations for the 2025 awards will open November 2024.](#)

Until then, please feel free to [share your Owens alumni success updates here!](#)



### Alumni Hall of Fame Honorable Mention:

Brittany E. Moore

Brittany Moore graduated with her Associates Degree in Applied Science, Dental Hygiene, in 2006 from Owens Community College. Upon graduation, she attended The Ohio State University, where she earned her Bachelors ('09) and Master's Degree ('15) in Dental Hygiene with a specialization in dental hygiene education.

Brittany has been an Adjunct Faculty at Owens Community College in the Dental Hygiene Program since 2009. She currently is the course director for Tooth Morphology, Community Dental Health I and II, Trends in Practice and serves as the Owens ADHA Student Chapter Co-Advisor. She is motivated to increase dental literacy and advocating to improve access to dental care. Brittany lives in Findlay, Ohio, with her husband Nicholas and children Cohen, Micarah and McLane.

## **Conversations Podcast with Dr. Dione D. Somerville**

The award-winning Conversations podcast features Owens President Dr. Dione D. Somerville sitting down with community leaders each month. The Conversations podcast is available on Amazon, Apple, Google, iHeart Media, Spotify and many more podcast streaming platforms. Also check it out on the podcast's host site: [Listen Here](#) Then join the conversation - tell us about YOU by taking the four-question [Listener Survey!](#)



In [this episode](#), Dr. Dione D. Somerville celebrates the second anniversary of her award-winning podcast with a conversation with Tom Daniels, Owens Community College alumni. The talent management director for Knight Insurance Group also serves on the Owens Community College Foundation Board of Directors and as Chair of the Alumni Committee. They discuss topics including his higher educational experiences at Owens Community College, Bowling Green State University and the University of Toledo, his inspiration for working in human resources and giving back to Owens and the community. [Listen Here](#)

## **Owens Instructor Buchanan Receives National Faculty Award**

Owens Community College Dental Hygiene Instructor [Nicole Buchanan](#) has been recognized by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) as a 2024 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty recipient.

Awarded to select faculty who make a difference in community college classrooms across the country, this highly competitive national designation honors faculty active in their students' lives and in their colleges' activities to ensure student success. Buchanan is the fourth Owens faculty member to receive the AACC accolade, joining Sara Burke, Jen Hazel and Sarah Long.

"I love teaching at the college that gave me my career," Buchanan said. "I love working with students and find it deeply rewarding. I am lucky to be doing what I am passionate about."

Besides her position at Owens, the Elmore resident works for dental practices in Perrysburg and Toledo. She earned her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University (2014) and master's in public health from the Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health (2018).

In addition to the Parnell Award, Buchanan received the [Owens School of Nursing and Health Professions Teaching Excellence Award](#) after the 2022-2023 academic year.



Nicole Buchanan

## **Owens Receives Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation**

The Designation recognizes campuses meeting criteria that depict their support of students with experience in foster care or kinship.

Owens Community College is proud to be one of twelve campuses to receive the Ohio Reach Postsecondary Designation on April 30, 2024. The total number of Ohio campuses that have earned the designation is now 40. The initial cohort was announced last August, and 111 Ohio Reach students have since been identified through the designation to receive support services.

Ohio Reach is a network of professionals, advocates, and students across Ohio determined to support former foster youth on their education journey. Ohio Reach, administered through the Ohio Children's Alliance, provides resources to institutions of higher education, child welfare agencies, and foster care alumni enrolled in higher education to support their academic success.

## **Register NOW for Kids Summer Camps at Owens!**

Magnet Raceway Engineering Camp (ages 5-8 years) Mon-Thurs, 6/10-6/13, 9:30am-11:30pm

Electric Car Engineering Camp (ages 8-12 years) Mon-Thurs, 6/10-6/13, 1:30pm-4:30pm

Science & Toys (ages 6-9 years) Tues-Thurs, 6/23-6/27, 9:30am-11:30pm

Rookie Robotics (ages 8-12 years) Tues-Thurs, 6/25-6/27, 1:30pm-4:30pm

Candy STEM (ages 8-12 years) Tues-Thurs, 7/9-7/11, 9:30am-11:30pm

Forces and Energy of Nature (ages 8-12 years) Mon-Thurs, 7/22-7/25, 1:30-4:30pm

Around the World in Three Days (ages 5-8 years) Tues-Thurs, 7/23-7/25, 9:30am-11:30pm

Design a Zoo Enclosure Camp (ages 5-8 years) Mon-Thurs, 7/29-8/1, 9:30am-11:30am

Full STEAM Ahead (ages 7-12 years) Mon-Thurs, 7/29-8/1, 8am-12pm

Fun with Food: Kitchen Chemistry (ages 5-8 years) Tues-Thurs, 8/6-8/8, 9:30am-11:30am

Magic of Science (ages 6-8 years) Tues-Thurs, 8/6-8/8, 1:30pm-4:30pm

## **Save the Dates**

We would love to see you at one of the many on-campus activities available to our community! Please be sure to check details and RSVP for events which may require pre-registration due to limited seating availability.

### **OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE ATHLETICS**

#### **Express Men's Baseball**

Infielder Kale Wilkins earns

OCCAC Player of the Week

#### **Express Women's Soccer**

Welcomes Coach Rutherford

2024-25 Season Begins August

#### **Express Men's Soccer**

Returns for 2024-25 Season

#### **Express Women's Volleyball**

2024-25 Season Begins August

### **CULTIVATING *the* ARTS**

#### **The Silo Volume 3:** Now Available

**Landscape and Turfgrass Management**

#### **Annual Plant Sale:**

May 8, 2024 9am-6pm

#### **Student Emergency Assistance**

#### **Electronics Recycling Drop Off Event:**

May 11, 2024 10am-1pm  
\$5 donation to Student  
Emergency Assistance Fund

### **Work & Play**

#### **Ceramics: Beginning and Beyond** **Advanced Ceramics**

Multiple classes and dates available.

#### **Make a Mural - Ceramics Workshop**

Tuesdays, 5/14-6/18, 6-9pm

#### **Herbal Tea Garden**

Monday, 5/20/24, 6:30-8:30pm

#### **BLS/CPR Provider, 2YR Certification**

Multiple class dates available on Toledo and Findlay campuses.

## **Your Foundation Support at Work in Findlay**

In addition to celebrating [40 years in Findlay](#), so far during the 2023-2024 academic year, your support of the Owens Foundation has directly impacted students at the Findlay campus and the Hancock County community through:

- [\\$3,300 funding for mannequins and equipment](#) for the [AHA Basic Life Support for Healthcare Providers CPR Class](#) in Findlay
- grant of \$10,000 from [Handbags That Help Women's Giving Circle](#) for an indoor climber and outdoor activity set for [Owens Early Learning Center](#) on Findlay campus



Owens staff accepting Handbags That Help grant at award ceremony hosted by Findlay Hancock County Community Foundation (left-right): Elizabeth Kutschbach, Danielle Davis, Kelle Pack, David Wahr, Cheryl Busdeker, Dr. Dione D. Somerville

To support the [Findlay campus](#), chose "Findlay Student Emergency Fund" or "Findlay Campus Support" on the dropdown menu of the [online giving form](#).



### **Contact us!**

[foundation@owens.edu](mailto:foundation@owens.edu)  
[owensalumni@owens.edu](mailto:owensalumni@owens.edu)  
 567-661-7100

## **Join the New Facebook Page to Engage Further**

*You asked and Owens answered - new and improved ways to engage with fellow alumni and friends!*

PLEASE VISIT AND FOLLOW [OUR NEW FACEBOOK PAGE FOR ALUMNI AND FOUNDATION FRIENDS!](#)

If you like the new monthly enewsletter, just wait until you see our new and improved Facebook page - be sure to like and follow to stay up to date throughout the month and [join the conversation with other newsletter readers!](#)



OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**