

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2024

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Owens Key Partner in \$31.3M Glass Innovation Hub

Owens Community College is positioned to provide relevant education and training as the only community college partner in the new \$31.3 million Northwest Ohio Glass Innovation Hub project focused on enhancing the region as a global leader in glass science, engineering, technology and production. Funded by the State of Ohio and announced by Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, the consortium aligns with Owens' mission of working with regional employers and serving their talent development needs.

"We look forward to working with regional industry leaders, local universities, economic development leaders, startup companies and all levels of the regional workforce to help reaffirm the region's status as the Glass Capital through short-term training, associate degrees and transfer," Owens President Dr. Dione D. Somerville said. [Read more](#)



Owens Community College Foundation 22nd Annual Golf Classic

[Join us](#) at Belmont Country Club on September 16th for an exciting day of golf and philanthropy! Proceeds from the 2024 Golf Classic will be used to fund equipment for the new [Owens Healthcare Education Center](#). [Register today](#) - only a few foursomes and hole sponsorships remain available!

Drone Drop - Don't miss this fun opportunity to support the Owens Golf Classic!

Drone Drop tickets are available for purchase [here](#). Winners will be announced during the awards ceremony and need not be present to win. Here's how it works: Purchase a golf ball - or multiples - for \$20 each. Golf balls can be purchased [online](#), at Foundation offices, or on location day of event before the drop. Drop is limited to 500 golf balls, which will be sold up to 11am on Sept 16 or until sold out, whichever comes first. A drone will drop numbered foam golf balls onto the practice green at 11:30am on Sept 16 at Belmont Country Club. The three golf balls closest to the target will win prizes, as well as the furthest ball from the target! Sponsored by the McAlear Group and in-kind donors, prizes include \$1000 cash, Marathon Center Wildcard Series Subscription, Metroparks cabin stay, River Cruise from J & M Cruise Lines, and Toledo Zoo Family Membership!

Alumni Spotlight



Alumni Hall of Fame

Honorable Mention:

Kim Merritt

Kim Merritt is a Founder, Creative Director, and Writer who's on a mission to build a more inspiring and sustainable future for creative professionals. After starting her education at Owens Community College, she went on to graduate from the School of Visual Arts in New York City, and spent the next 15+ years working with some of the biggest brands in the world at advertising agencies throughout New York, London, and Los Angeles. In 2020, she founded Goodera®, a creative studio that works exclusively with purpose-driven brands, and gives back 10% of each invoice to local communities and organizations. Continuing to give back to her roots at Owens, in the Spring of 2022, Kim established the "Merritt Award" of the [Oregon Road Film Series Film Challenge](#) to recognize a team with three or more students from various creative majors and creates a film with the theme of "doing good in the world." Outside of advertising, Kim has been featured in *People Magazine* and *The New York Times Frugal Traveler* for her travel writing, and has had her landscape photography go viral with tourism boards.

Honorable Mentions of the 2024 Alumni Hall of Fame Awards will continued to be featured in the newsletter throughout the remainder of the year. All nominees will be considered for three years following their nomination. [Nominations for the 2025 awards will open November 1, 2024.](#)

Please feel free to [continue sharing your Owens alumni success updates here!](#)

Faculty Spotlight

Owens Community College Findlay-area Campus Dean Brad Wood was among the 35 graduates in the most recent Ohio Leadership Academy for Student Success class.

The academy, sponsored by the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, gathers faculty and staff for a year of training, exchanging ideas and immersion in promoting student success.

The OACC created the academy in 2019 to reverse management turnover by strengthening internal advancement pipelines within the state's 23 community colleges. Michigan, New York and Texas are among the states replicating Ohio's initiative.

"The past year has provided a meaningful and positive professional development experience with colleagues from around the state," Wood said. "We shared practical experiences that can be adapted to our daily work. We all want our students to succeed and achieve their higher education goals." [Read more](#)



2024 Ohio Leadership Academy Graduate:
Dean Brad Wood

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 sits down with Myron Lewis, MSW, MBA, FACHE, the President and CEO of Blanchard Valley Health System. Blending clinical expertise with strategic and operational leadership, he has served in many leadership capacities and provided direct patient care as a social worker and counselor. Lewis specializes in organizational planning, leadership development, innovation and process transformation. Passionate about healthcare and the community, he is driven by collaboration, transparency and the convention that quality care starts with a commitment to the organization's associates. Their topics include the award-winning Blanchard Valley Health System and its future plans as well as how Owens and Blanchard Valley collaborate for the benefit of Owens students and the community.

[Listen here](#)

Department Announcements and Event 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

Shelley Whitaker voted OCCAC Athletics Director of the Year! Under her visionary leadership, Owens Express reintroduced Women's Soccer in 2023, Men's Soccer returns in 2024, and Softball, Volleyball and Men's Basketball teams achieved Regional Champion titles in 2023-24!

Seasons Opening in August:

All home games free to attend

[Express Women's Soccer](#)

[Express Men's Soccer](#)

[Express Women's Volleyball](#)

Homecoming - Sept 21, 2024

CULTIVATING *the* ARTS

A limited number of commemorative 20th-year Creative Expressions glass globes, designed and produced by the Toledo Museum of Art, are **available for a limited time!**

2024-2025 The BIG Read Confronting Biases: Aug 29 at 11am CH100 and Livestream; [click here](#).

Join Dr. Kristen Price, Professor of Psychology, and Kim Musser-Quist, Instructor of American Sign Language, as we discuss overcoming unconscious biases during this dynamic presentation.

Work & Play

[Owens Voices Choir and Concert Band](#)

begin Aug 19th & 20th

Register now for enrichment classes returning in September:

[Ceramics](#)

[Culinary](#)

[Photography](#)

[DIY Home Repairs & Renovations](#)

[Auditioning Workshop](#)

Sept 3, 2024 6-7:30pm

A week before the auditions for the fall musical, "Dead Man's Cell Phone," appropriate for ages 18 and up. Free and open to the community.

Your Foundation Support at Work

August 17th is National Nonprofit Day, honoring the impactful work of nonprofit organizations in our communities



"A large portion of a successful Foundation is providing opportunities to become more engaged for people and groups who share a passion for what we do. Not only does the Owens Foundation raise money to support our efforts but they also host and partner with departments to hold various events across campus and communities."

--William H. Taylor, Dean of Business, Hospitality Management & Public Safety

The Owens Foundation is proud to serve as the primary nonprofit organization supporting Owens Community College since 2002, established with the purpose of encouraging and accepting private donations to benefit the College's programs and students. The Foundation also serves as the primary contact for alumni resources and engagement.

Since 2002, donors have contributed \$11 million in gifts and grants. As a result, more than \$5 million has been distributed to the College for programs and capital support, and more than \$3 million has been distributed to students for scholarships. As of May 2024, the Owens Community College Foundation has more than \$8.1 million in endowed funds, up from \$822,000 in 2002; continuing to ensure long-term sustainability for the College. Additionally, countless hours have been volunteered by alumni serving as mentors, job coaches, and on the alumni committee and advisory boards for their respective departments.

To support the [Owens Fund](#), the [Student Emergency Fund](#), or contribute to any [scholarship](#) or [program support](#) fund, chose the appropriate designation from the "I want to support" dropdown menu of the [online giving form](#).

In recognition of Nonprofit Day, please consider [Increasing Your Impact](#) through one or more of the below methods - some of which are at no additional cost to you!

- **[Matching Gifts](#)** - thousands of companies match donations by employees to the Owens Foundation! Please use the search tool to see if your company will match your donation and to access the forms, guidelines, and instructions that you need to submit a matching gift.
- **[Kroger Community Rewards](#)** - once logged into your Kroger account, you can search for Owens Community College Foundation, either by name or code JJ960 and then click Enroll.
- **[In-Kind Gifts](#)** - Support the Owens Harvest Food Pantry, Career Closet, Free Store, Garden, or Apiary by making an in-kind gift of items you are no longer using! [View our donation wish list here](#). For more information, please email connections@owens.edu. To discuss gifts of program specific supplies or equipment, please email foundation@owens.edu.
- **[Owens Apparel](#)** and **[Express Apparel](#)** - wear your Owens pride wherever you go!
- Complete the **[Connect](#)** survey to receive information regarding the topics and engagement opportunities that you are most interested in!



Contact us!

foundation@owens.edu
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