

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

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Owens Department of Criminal Justice Receives Retired Patrol Vehicles for Training



"We rely upon these types of donations because the equipment for a public safety program is expensive." --**Mark King**, Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy

The Owens Community College Department of Criminal Justice recently received a donation of two retired Ohio Highway Patrol vehicles for use in its training Ohio Peace Officer Training Academies.

The donation comes courtesy of Ohio State Representative Haraz Ghanbari.

"I am deeply grateful to The Ohio State Highway Patrol for their generous donation of two former patrol vehicles to the Owens Community College Police Academy," Rep. Ghanbari said. "This contribution greatly enhances the training capabilities at Owens and supports their mission to prepare future law enforcement professionals. I look forward seeing these future officers out in our communities."

[Read more](#)

Owens Aspire Student and Educator Win State Awards

An educator and former student in the Owens Aspire Program for adult learners each received awards from the Ohio Department of Higher Education during Ohio Adult Education Week.

Duaa MustafaAli, an instructor in the English for Speakers of Other Languages program, was named the Outstanding Educator of the Year for the northwest district. She was one of six winners across the state.

Millicent Carrick, who recently passed all components of the GED test and earned her High School Equivalency credential, was named the Outstanding Student of the Year for the northwest district. Carrick was one of five statewide winners.

"We are thrilled to know that, in our region, both the Outstanding Educator and Outstanding Student came from the Owens program," said Heath Huber, director of the Aspire Program. [Read more](#)



Duaa MustafaAli



Millicent Carrick



Owens Foundation Golf Classic Raises Record Amount to Support Healthcare Education Center

The 22nd Annual Classic presented by Toledo Building Services raised over \$85,900!

"We are so thankful for the companies and individuals who sponsored and golfed in our outing this year. It was a beautiful day, and we are incredibly appreciative of the support we received through this year's golf classic," said **Kelle Pack**, Vice President of the Owens Institutional Advancement Office and Executive Director of the [Owens Community College Foundation](#). "The proceeds from this year's event will be used to fund equipment purchases in our new [Healthcare Education Center](#) (HEC)."

"The HEC, which will be completely open for classes in January 2025, will provide students with state-of-the-art simulation areas to practice interprofessional education and training as they pursue careers serving the public in healthcare. We are excited to support the need for healthcare workers across our region by providing world-class training in our new nursing and health professions education center."

The Golf Classic, which was played at Belmont Country Club, has generated more than \$1 million since its inception. [Read more](#)

Faculty-Alumni Spotlight

CDL Instructor **Linda Lear** came to Owens as a CDL student 2019, looking to start a new, better life. As Lear said, her back was against the wall because of personal problems, and she knew she had to do something.

"I always liked to travel and drive, so I decided to go to Owens," Lear said. "There were always barriers trying to hold me back or stop me from obtaining my CDL. Once I had shut the door and put everything behind me and just focused on one thing, I obtained my license."

She spent the next two years on the road as a driver. At first, she thought she would be the only female in the trucking industry.

However, it didn't take long for her to see that she was wrong - there are many women who work in the trucking industry. According to data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the number of female truck drivers has doubled in the past 20 years. Females now comprise 8 percent of the truck driving population.

Lear has now spent two years as an instructor at Owens. Helping students overcome their challenges and barriers motivates her as an instructor.

Lear said her biggest responsibility is safety, both for the student and the other motorists on the road. [Read more](#)

[Nominations for the 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Awards will open November 1, 2024.](#) Faculty/staff alumni are eligible for nomination. Please feel free to [continue sharing your Owens alumni success updates here!](#)



Linda Lear

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 Nicole Buchanan, the award-winning Owens dental hygiene instructor. The Owens grad discusses the importance of oral healthcare, the new Healthcare Education Center and its dental facilities and being a working dental professional in addition to higher education faculty member.

[Listen here](#)

President's Blog Celebrates Teamwork and Success

President Somerville celebrates the college's positive momentum and acknowledges how faculty and staff teamwork is contributing to the overall success in her latest blog post.

"Every time I hear someone from the community speak highly of Owens or when students express gratitude for their experiences here, I know that these successes are a direct reflection of this effort."

[Read more](#) about why employee engagement is one of the college's strategic priorities.

Perrysburg Rotary Awards Grant Helping Owens Students in Need



A Fall 2023 survey concluded more than one-quarter of Owens Community College students ran out of money six or more times last year while nearly half of the students reported being food insecure.

Those stark numbers make the work of the College's [Center for Campus and Community Connections](#) so vital to the success of our students.

In June, Owens received a \$1,000 grant from the Perrysburg Rotary Club for the Center, with \$250 allocated to the Harvest Food Pantry and Garden, \$250 going to purchase laundry detergent and hygiene products and \$500 going into the Emergency Fund.

"Every single one of those dollars is going directly into a resource for a student," said **Krista Kiessling**, Director of Campus and Community Connections. "If that's a box of laundry detergent that is a student's dealbreaker that week, we're able to stabilize that family. We want to keep sending the message that if you're struggling, we're here, we care, and we want to help make sure you're accessing everything you can to succeed at Owens."

The food pantry, located in College Hall on the Toledo-area Campus and in Room 115DD in the Education Center on the Findlay-area Campus, opened in 2012 as the first pantry located at a college or university in Ohio. It provides free food resources and personal hygiene items to Owens students while classes are in session.

"Non-perishable food items are pretty easy for us to get our hands on, but cleaning supplies, hygiene items, laundry soap, that can be a little more difficult," Kiessling said. "For us to have this money to reach out to a wholesale provider and purchase that for our students is tremendously helpful."

Additionally, the Center operates a Career Closet and Free Store in College Hall. Students can acquire clothing items for interviews, job fairs or class presentations. [Read more](#)

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

Game Schedules Available:

All home games free to attend

[Express Women's Soccer](#)

[Express Men's Soccer](#)

[Express Women's Volleyball](#)

[Express Men's Basketball](#)

[Express Women's Basketball](#)

Fundraiser at [Raising Cane's](#), Oct 2, 12-9pm

Career & Transfer Services

JCPenney Suit-Up Event

October 21 & 22, 10am-3pm

Toledo-area Transfer Fair

October 23, 11am-1pm, HH123

Findlay-area Transfer Fair

& Chili Cook-Off

November 6, 11am-1pm

[Email](#) to enter a chili in the cook-off

CULTIVATING *the ARTS*

Accent on the Arts

Cleveland Celtic Ensemble

Thurs, October 3, 7:30pm

Walter E. Terhune Gallery

Solo Show by Julia LaBay

through October 18

Fall 2024 Student Production

Dead Man's Cell Phone

November 7-10, times vary



Sponsorship Opportunities Available

The Sound of Metal Film Showing & Discussion

October 3, 12pm, CH100 & Livestream

Human Library

October 17, 12pm, CH100 & Livestream

Work & Play

Fall enrichment classes:

[Ceramics](#)

[Culinary](#)

[Photography](#)

[DIY Home Repairs & Renovations](#)

Dental Hygiene Clinic

Access to Care Days

October 17 & 24, 5-8:30pm, HEC

Please call 567-661-7294 to schedule an appointment.



OWENS
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[Sponsorship Opportunities Available](#)

Your Foundation Support at Work

Scholarships Help Carry the Weight of Higher Education Costs



Owens Foundation scholarships assist students financially so they can pursue and complete their education. Scholarships do not have to be repaid and are an incredible relief to students seeking to start their success at Owens.

Generally, scholarships are awarded to students based on a set of criteria such as a certain field of study or major, academic performance, or community service.

Your support of the Foundation makes it possible for Owens Community College to meet the mission of being the conduit to **changing lives for the better in northwest Ohio through affordable, accessible, high quality education and training**. Your gifts of scholarships, direct student assistance, and program enhancements create the pathways to a better quality of life and progress for the Region!

Since 2002, the Foundation has provided over \$3 million in scholarship funds. Additionally, the Owens Foundation has awarded 200 scholarships totaling over \$215,000 for the 2024-2025 academic year alone! This direct student support is only possible through your generous support - scholarship contributions (of any size) combine to truly help carry the weight of higher education for those who need it most.

One of the most joyful parts of witnessing *your Foundation support at work* is the privilege of reading the thank you letters received from these grateful students whose lives have been most impacted by your gifts. While we are unable to quote all 200 in the newsletter, the below clips were selected to be shared in honor of Manufacturing Month and Jill of All Trades(TM) at Owens in October:

"I want to extend my sincere gratitude for being chosen to receive this scholarship. I will be using the funds to pursue my welding degree at Owens this fall and want to let you know how much I truly appreciate your help. **It is my dream to fulfill and complete my education in the welding manufacturing field and being the recipient of this award is an honor. Thank you very much!**" --*Kayleigh Fox*

"I want to thank you. I really do want to thank you for the offer. Not only is it very generous, it is very much appreciated. Your contribution will help me out so much. **I really have no way to begin to thank you enough for your contribution to my education, and my future in the diesel industry. I feel like I won the lottery.**" --*Rebecca Vascik*

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



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!](#)



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