

# OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2024

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## 2024 State of the College Address Highlights Successes



**Pictured Left to Right:** Avi Zaffini, Cory Hoover, and Dr. Dione D. Somerville

Dr. Dione D. Somerville began her fourth academic year as president on Monday, August 12 by sharing highlights of the Owens Community College strategic plan for faculty, staff and community guests, including Ohio Association of Community Colleges president and CEO Avi Zaffini.

Somerville focused her Owens address on the strategic plan adopted in 2023.

**"Last year, in the first year of our plan, we worked to put a framework in place that would enable our success moving forward," Somerville said. "We are kicking off our second year and looking forward to continued momentum." [Read more](#)**

### Faculty Spotlight

Recognized during the Address was this year's Presidential Teaching Award recipient, professor of English [Cory Hoover](#), who leads the innovative [Open Educational Resources](#) (OER) program which has helped save students more than \$2 million the past three academic years. She began teaching at Owens in Fall Semester 2000. A recipient of the TRIO Champion Award (2021), Hoover has been active at Owens, including helping launch the Center for Teaching and Innovation, developing numerous presentations, workshops and events and serving as a lead [Honors Program](#) advisor (2012-2021).

## Owens Community College Foundation 22nd Annual Golf Classic

Last Call "FORE!" Drone Drop Tickets - need not be present to win!



Proceeds from the 2024 Golf Classic will be used to fund equipment for the new [Owens Healthcare Education Center](#). [Purchase your drone drop tickets today](#) for a chance to win on September 16!

### 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 office, or on location day of event before the drop. Drop is limited to **only 200 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 five golf balls which land in or closest to the numbered holes will win prizes! 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, Toledo Zoo Family Membership, and MORE!

## Alumni Spotlight



Tyler Bender received an Associates Degree from Owens Community College after having served as the President of the Physical Therapist Assistant Program Class of 2023. In this role, he served as a mentor for his fellow classmates and a leader of their voice during class discussions. He assisted the administrative team and faculty of the PTA program in recommending effective changes for the program for future cohorts. Tyler also advocated for stress relief and mental wellness during the summer semester by organizing several spike-ball games between Health Tech and College Hall. Additionally, Tyler represented the PTA program in Owens' debut on *'The College Tour'* TV series.

Tyler is a member of both the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) as well as the Ohio Physical Therapy Association (OPTA). He serves as the Representative of the Northwest District's OPTA Early Professional Special Interest Group (EP SIG). In this role, he visits soon-to-be Physical Therapist Assistant and Physical Therapist graduates at local colleges and universities, holding discussions about value in membership of the OPTA and APTA as a professional, as well as the importance of mentorship in the early profession after graduation. Tyler remains involved in continuing to advocate for and represent the Owens PTA program.

### 2024 Alumni Hall of Fame

#### Honorable Mention:

Tyler Bender

[Nominations for the 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Awards will open November 1, 2024.](#)

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

## Conversations Podcast with Dr. Dione D. Somerville

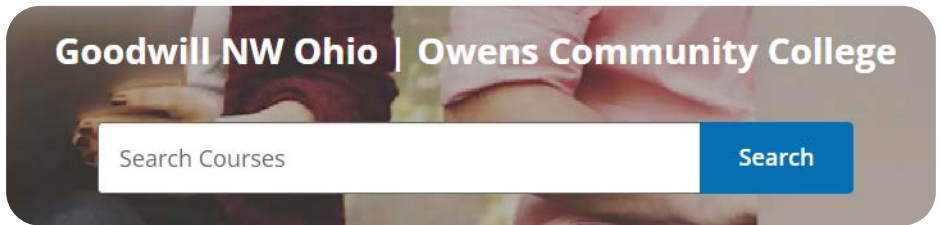
The award-winning Conversations podcast features Owens President Dr. Dione D. Somerville sitting down with community leaders each month. The Conversations podcast is available on Amazon, Apple, Google, iHeart Media, Spotify and many more podcast streaming platforms. Also check it out on the podcast's 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 Jason Mesteller, a seasoned plant manager and director of operations with more than 17 years of experience at First Solar, a leading global provider of comprehensive photovoltaic (PV) solar energy solutions. His hands-on experience and in-depth knowledge of the manufacturing process have been instrumental in his ability to lead teams effectively and implement process improvements. In addition to his practical experience, Jason is PMP certified and trained in Theory of Constraints (TOC), Six Sigma and Critical Chain Project Management. Jason Mesteller's dedication to manufacturing excellence, coupled with his leadership skills and technical expertise, makes him a respected figure in the industry and the community. Jason also serves as a member of the Owens Community College Foundation Board of Directors.

[Listen here](#)

## Owens Expands Partnership With Goodwill Industries to Better Serve Workforce Needs



Owens Community College and Goodwill Industries of Northwest Ohio are partnering to provide enhanced training options for people seeking to improve their workforce training opportunities.

Through a new customized website, individuals working with Goodwill will have access to learning experiences at Owens that connect directly to job success. The training courses are possible thanks to both organizations' premium partner status with ed2go, a national network of online courses taught by experts from a variety of fields.

All courses are available entirely online, self-paced and available 24 hours per day, 7 days per week to meet the needs of busy adults juggling family and job responsibilities. As Goodwill navigators and individuals arrive at specific educational goals, Owens will enroll them and support their journey to completion.

"Owens Community College is excited to work with Goodwill Industries of Northwest Ohio and expand access to education that benefits the local workforce and area employers," said Charlene Page, executive director of Workforce and Economic Development at Owens. "The need for a highly-skilled workforce is clear to everyone. We are always looking to improve higher education access for adult learners and help them acquire the skills they need." [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](#)



#### Blood Drives at the SHAC

September 11, 10am-3pm

November 12, 10am-3pm

### CULTIVATING the ARTS

#### Creative Noises Live!

Performances highlighting the talents of our Creative Arts & Media faculty and students!

#### Theatre Express

Sat, Sept 28, 7:30pm

#### Owens Community Band

Sun, Sept 29, 2:30pm



[Sponsorship Opportunities Available](#)

[Bookmark Sale: September 5](#)

### Work & Play

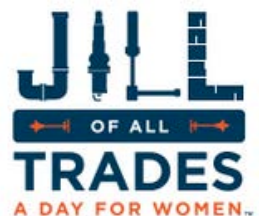
#### Fall enrichment classes:

[Ceramics](#)

[Culinary](#)

[Photography](#)

[DIY Home Repairs & Renovations](#)



[Sponsorship Opportunities Available](#)

## **Your Foundation Support at Work**

Urgent Call for [Student Emergency Assistance](#)



Your gift will help with expenses such as books, supplies, uniforms and scrubs, or with non-educational related expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, personal automobile expenses, public transportation, medical bills, child care, and more.

“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.”***

To support the [Student Emergency Fund](#), or 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](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**