

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024

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Unparalleled Apprenticeship Program: Owens CC and Wood County JFS



A new partnership between Owens Community College and Wood County Job and Families Services (JFS) is offering students an opportunity to gain work experience and professional experiences before they start their human services careers.

The Peer Specialist Apprenticeship is a 2,000-hour paid program that allows students to pursue their degrees while gaining hands-on experience in the field. This apprenticeship program for human services is the first of its kind in Ohio.

"The Peer Specialist Apprenticeship is the perfect experiential learning environment for any student looking to enter the human services sector. Wood County Jobs and Family Services has developed a great opportunity where Owens students can gain valuable work experience and professional connections that will follow them their entire career," said **Michael Sander**, Owens Dean for the School of Liberal Arts. [Read more](#)

Owens Programs Receive Prestigious GM ASE Reaccreditation Through 2029



[Chris Kinkade](#)

Owens Community College's Medium/Heavy Truck Technician program and Automobile Technician program received ASE Program Accreditation through 2029.

Part of the General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program at Owens, these two-year associate degree programs are designed to upgrade the technical competence and professionalism of graduates who become General Motors Service Technicians. The programs are part of the General Motors Automotive Service Educational Program at Owens.

Owens and General Motors collaborated on the programs' curriculum design. While completing these degrees, students rotate class time and internship at a sponsoring dealership or service center.

"This gives us legitimacy with the industry," Owens automotive/GM ASEP instructor **Christopher Kinkade** said. "It tells the industry that we're meeting the standards they need, so when we get students in here, they're going to be up to their standards. There's no way we could have the GM involvement unless we have this." [Read more](#)

Faculty Spotlights: Jason Graven and Duaa MustafaAli

Jason Graven has spent more than a dozen years working with veterans across northwest Ohio, impacting the lives of countless individuals. A veteran of the U.S. Army, Graven is currently the Assistant Director of TRIO/Veterans Upward Bound, housed at Owens Community College.



Graven's work is being recognized by the Ohio Department of Veterans Services as a member of the latest class of the **Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame**. It's an honor he ranks with the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

"It's very humbling to have been picked for this recognition," Graven said. "I would consider it validation for a lot of hard work, but I've also been blessed to work with several really great teams."

"Every single one of these experiences aided in me receiving this recognition, and I hope they all feel part of this recognition. The one thing every single one of those teams had is, they all cared. Sometimes caring for other individuals will do a heck of a lot more to save their life than people realize."

Graven and the other inductees were honored during a dinner in Columbus on Wednesday, November 6, before being officially inducted during a ceremony at the Fawcett Center on the campus of The Ohio State University on Thursday, November 7.

[Read more](#)



Owens Community College Aspire Program Instructor **Duaa MustafaAli** didn't think much of it when she was handed a plaque while being honored as one of the state's six regional Adult Educators of the Year at a conference in Columbus.

It wasn't until long after she left the stage did she actually read the plaque and the distinction that came with it -

the sole recipient of the Ohio Adult Educator of the Year from the Ohio Department of Higher Education.

MustafaAli, who has taught English for Speakers of Other Languages for more than five years at Owens, admitted the honor came as a surprise.

"I'm definitely excited," she said. "When (Aspire Program Director) Heath (Huber) said I was nominated for the regional award, I thought that was great. That's all I expected. I never expected any awards or honors."

In his nomination for MustafaAli for the award, **Heath Huber** said she's a "favorite aunt" for the students and called her the "most approachable and engaged instructor our program has, welcoming each student into an instant community of learners who support each other and learn from each other no matter their educational functioning level." Huber also pointed out MustafaAli's willingness to adapt to learning new platforms and utilizing technology, with many of her students moving on to college or further employment.

[Read more](#)

Alumni Spotlight: YOUR NAME HERE?

Nominations for the 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Awards are now open through December 31, 2024! Please feel free to continue sharing your Owens alumni success updates [here](#)!

Sponsored by the Owens Community College Foundation, the Alumni Hall of Fame Awards are prestigious honors presented annually to recognize the achievement of outstanding Owens alumni who have excelled personally and professionally, making a continued and significant difference in their community on a local, state, national or international level.

A maximum of five individuals, one for each College plus one Community award will be inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame.

The accomplishments to be recognized may be achieved through the nominee's career, service, volunteer efforts or involvement with Owens Community College.

Click [here](#) for more information or to nominate an Owens Alum; for questions or more information, contact owensalumni@owens.edu.

A large red circular graphic with white text and symbols. At the top is the Owens Community College logo (a stylized 'O' with a circle inside). Below it is the year '2025'. The main text reads 'Alumni HALL OF FAME' in a serif font, with 'Alumni' in a smaller font above 'HALL OF FAME'. The text is flanked by two laurel wreaths. Below this, in a larger, bold, sans-serif font, it says 'CALL FOR NOMINATIONS'. At the bottom, in a smaller sans-serif font, it says '@ OWENS.EDU/ALUMNI/AWARDS/NOMINATE NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2024'.

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 Men's Basketball](#)

[Express Women's Basketball](#)

Athletics Hall of Fame: Jan 25

More information coming soon!

Owens OutComm Student Media

Owens OutComm Student Media is presenting new audio and video content. For more information and listening schedules, visit the [OutComm website](#)

"Best of Toledo" Contest

Owens has been nominated for two categories - Best Community College and Best Career Tech - in Toledo City Paper's "Best of Toledo" competition. Voting is open [here](#) through Dec 15.

CULTIVATING *the* ARTS

[Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery](#)

2024 Faculty Art Show

on display through Dec 6

Athena Art Society:

Fall Juried Art Exhibition

on display through Dec 13

Passages:

Juried High School Art Show

Opening Reception Jan 31
on display through March 21

Creative Expressions and Alumni Hall of Fame Awards

SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, May 3, 2025 5:30pm @ CFPA



[Sponsorship Opportunities Available](#)

[Catch up on BIG Read Podcasts!](#)

Work & Play

Career & Enrichment Classes:

[Basic Life Support/CPR](#)

[Ceramics](#)

[Computer Training](#)

[DIY Home Repairs & Renovations](#)

[Encaustic Painting w/Studio Time](#)

[Online Professional Development](#)

[Photography](#)

[Real Estate](#)

[Studio Art Welding](#)

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR KIDS SPRING CLASSES AND SUMMER CAMPS

Register early to ensure your child gets a seat in these rapidly filling programs!

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 retired KeyBank President & former Regional Growth Partnership Chair **Jim Hoffman**. His leadership and dedication to fostering economic growth in the region have earned him a reputation as a trusted figure in banking and finance.

Jim's educational background laid the foundation for his successful career. He attended the University of Toledo, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration. His academic pursuits equipped him with the expertise needed to navigate the complexities of the financial sector.

Throughout his career with KeyBank, Jim held various leadership roles that showcased his ability to drive growth and foster strong relationships with both clients and colleagues. As president of KeyBank's Ohio operations, he played a pivotal role in enhancing the bank's presence in the region while supporting numerous community and economic development initiatives. Under his leadership, KeyBank became a key player in Ohio's financial landscape, contributing to business growth and the local economy.

Even in retirement, Jim remains committed to his community, serving on various boards and lending his expertise to initiatives that support economic development, financial literacy, and educational advancement. His legacy is one of leadership, innovation and an unwavering dedication to the well-being of his community. [Listen here](#)

Your Foundation Support at Work



Building Empowered Futures: Every Investment Makes an Impact!

As a valued member of the Owens Community College community, your support helps create a brighter future for our students.

Through the generosity of our donors, the **Owens Foundation funds futures** by providing access to affordable higher education through scholarships and student assistance, support to innovative programs and activities, and cutting-edge facilities and equipment.

But there's still more work to be done, and we need your help! As the year draws to a close, we ask you to consider making a contribution to empower the next generation of students.

Watch a special message from [Owens President Dr. Dione D. Somerville](#) about supporting Owens on GivingTuesday.

Your gift is powerful - all donations join together to create lasting change in our community!

Your support has the power to build empowered lives for our students and growth for our region! Please consider giving today! Every contribution, no matter the size, helps our students achieve their dreams.

Will you consider making an investment today to make a lasting impact this year? You can [give easily online](#) at the button below or to discuss in-kind contributions of program specific supplies or equipment, please email foundation@owens.edu.

Thank you for being a proud member of our community. Together, we are building a brighter future for the next generation.



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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