

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025 - CELEBRATING COMMUNITY COLLEGE MONTH!

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Owens Receives TWO 'Best of Toledo' Awards & Voter Friendly Designation

April is **Community College Month**, and Owens Community College students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends have many reasons to celebrate - **loud and proud!** This month, we recognize the incredible impact and achievements that make Owens a leader in student success, workforce development, and innovation by highlighting awards that showcase the excellence of our programs, leadership, students, and alumni.

Owens was recently named *Best Community College* and *Best Career Tech College* in the **Toledo City Paper's Best of Toledo Awards 2025**, an honor voted on by the publication's readers. Additionally, Owens is proud to be designated a [Voter Friendly Campus for 2025-26](#) by the Fair Election Center's Campus Vote Project and NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education.

This issue is also packed with exciting upcoming events where you can engage with the Owens community, connect with future opportunities, and celebrate the power of accessible community-centered education. We hope to see you at one of the many upcoming activities celebrating 60 years of Owens excellence!

Read on about how Owens continues to **power possibilities**, creating lasting opportunities for our students & community!

President Somerville Receives Trailblazer & Difference Maker Awards



President Dr. **Dione D. Somerville** has received two awards in the past two months in recognition of her leadership at Owens Community College.

The Lucas County Commissioners honored Somerville as part of their Women's History Month celebration at a regular meeting Tuesday morning, March 25. The Ohio House of Representatives presented Somerville with a Difference Maker in Our Community award as part of a Black History Month event on Sunday, February 16. [Read more](#)



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 **Arturo Polizzi**, ProMedica's President and CEO. The conversation covers ProMedica's growth and challenges, its recent anniversary and Owens' position as ProMedica's first choice for registered nursing recruitment.

ProMedica is a leading not-for-profit healthcare system headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. Polizzi is an experienced executive with a demonstrated history of working in the hospital and healthcare industry. He is highly skilled in nonprofit organizations, strategy, operations, team building and business development. [Listen Here](#)

Student Spotlight: Joe Smith, aka Dr. Jay Thomas

Imagine being voted the best in your field in the area. Now imagine doing that THREE TIMES before you even earn your college degree. **Joe Smith**, aka Dr. Jay Thomas, scored that hat-trick by winning *Toledo City Paper's* "[Best of Toledo](#)" for the THIRD straight year for his Owens Community College Radio program "Randomosity" in the *Local Podcast* category!



It's the end of an era and a reason to celebrate as Smith is set to graduate in May 2025. The final Randomosity radio show will take place from 2-6 p.m. on Saturday, April 12 on Owens Community College OutComm Radio. The show will be live during its final airing, with highlights of past shows, appearances from past guests and records that will be featured on the show for the first time.

"Ultimately, this will be a send-off for the fans and everyone who has supported the program since day one," Smith said. "We would not have had the success that we have if it was not for the support of our fans, the school and the radio station that allowed us the opportunity to have a program completely different and unique from anything else in Toledo media."

You can find Randomosity and the rest of the OutComm show lineup at owensoutcomm.com.

Alumni Spotlight: Class of 2025 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees



From a competitive pool of nominations received, the Alumni Committee of the Owens Community College Foundation Board has confirmed the Class of 2025 inductees to the [Alumni Hall of Fame](#). Awards will be presented on May 3, 2025, at [Creative Expressions](#) on the Toledo-area campus.

[Join us](#) as we recognize the following esteemed alumni for their professional achievement, advocacy for education, and proud representation of Owens in our community and beyond.

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



School of Business, Hospitality Management and Public Safety
Diane T. Keil-Hipp, Ph.D.
'88, AAB - Business Management & Info Processing



School of Liberal Arts
Sharon D. Crawford
'04, Child Director's Certificate
'06, AAS - Early Childhood Education Technology



School of Nursing and Health Professions
Brittany E. Moore
'06, AAS - Dental Hygiene Program



School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
Steven T. Flowers
'12, AAS - Wide-Area Networking Technology



Workforce and Community Service
Linda S. Lear
'19, Certificate - Class A Commercial Driving



Creative Expressions: Passport to the Arts

**May 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm
Center for Fine & Performing Arts**

This event showcases the arts through performance and visual artistry including a [silent auction](#) and interactive creative activities while enjoying hors d'oeuvres by Carolyn's Catering. The event also features the annual [Alumni Hall of Fame](#) awards ceremony.

Please [reserve your tickets or sponsorship](#) today!

The Oregon Road Film Series



Oregon Road Film Series 2024-25 Challenge

**View all entries and vote for
the People's Choice Award by April 18!**

The ORFS Film Challenge gives participating teams a 54 hour period in which to create a short (3-8 minutes) film with a specific theme.

View & vote [here](#) by clicking the **'2024-25 Film Challenge Entries'** menu.



BIG Read BIG Event:

**Don't Miss Sara Novic on April 24th
10am Toledo CFPA & 3:30pm Findlay EC111**

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

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

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:

[Express Men's Baseball](#)
[Express Women's Softball](#)

Express Baseball Play Double Header Against Delta College at Fifth Third Field on April 3

FREE Yoga and Meditations

Meet monthly in College Hall 153
Registration not required
[Email James Zeller](#) with questions
YOGA: First Monday, 5pm
MEDITATION: Third Monday, 5pm

CULTIVATING *the* ARTS

Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery.

BIG Read: The Faces of Art Exhibit
Opening Reception April 4, 12-1pm, HH
Show on display through May 4

2025 Student Art Show

Opening Reception April 11, 6-8pm
Show on display through May 9

CAM Performance Series

Antigone
April 10-12, 7:30pm
April 13, 3pm

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](#)
[Studio Art Welding](#)

KIDS SPRING CLASSES AND SUMMER CAMPS

Scholarships are available!

Little Kiddo Art Show & Book Swap: Toledo-area campus Library on April 10, 4:30-7pm

Your Foundation Support at Work - Partner in Powering Possibilities

At Owens Community College, we see firsthand the **determination and resilience** of our students. They come from all walks of life – from high school students earning college credit to working parents juggling school and family, first-generation college students blazing a new path, and those returning to school to build a better future. But for too many, **financial hardships threaten their ability to stay enrolled and complete their education.**

That's why **our monthly donors are game changers.**

When you [give monthly](#), you provide **consistent, ongoing support** that meets students' most pressing needs - **from scholarships to emergency needs, from career training to campus resources.** Your generosity ensures that students can focus on learning, not financial struggles.



Why Give Monthly?

It's Impactful – Your support provides direct, essential resources to students.

It's Affordable and Flexible – You can choose the fund or program that means the most to you.

It's Sustainable – Your gift provides ongoing stability for Owens students.

Your Monthly Gift Makes a Difference:

\$10/month - Student Assistance

- Provides **meals** for struggling students through the Owens Harvest Food Pantry.
- Helps cover **transportation or utilities** for students facing unexpected financial hardship through the Student Emergency Fund.

\$25/month - Career & Technical Programs

- Supports **health and advanced technology programs** by funding hands-on learning materials and state of the art equipment.
- Provides industry-specific **certifications and training resources** for career readiness.

\$50/month - Scholarship Funds

- Contributes to **need-based scholarships**, making college more accessible for students who might not otherwise afford tuition.
- Funds **merit-based awards** to recognize outstanding students in academic and technical programs.

\$100+/month - Transformative Success

- Supports **STEM lab equipment, classroom technology, and hands-on learning resources** for Owens students.
- Funds **innovative programming** that helps our students and community succeed, such as [Jill of All Trades™](#) and [BIG Read](#).

Partner in Powering Possibilities. Keep Student Success on Track.



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 e-newsletter, 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