

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

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Healthcare Education Center Grand Opening



Monday
March 17, 2025

4pm
Check-in/Mingle

4:30pm
Program,
Dedication of
Donor Wall, and
Ribbon Cutting

5pm
Optional Tours

The \$31.3 million renovation and expansion project is dedicated to helping Owens meet its goal of growing nursing and allied healthcare program enrollment, increasing lab space for learning outcomes and ensuring students have modern equipment as they prepare to practice patient-centered care across the region.

The Interprofessional Education and Simulation Center is the new facility's highlight. The area is dedicated to fulfilling Owens' approach of interprofessional education (IPE), where multiple healthcare disciplines collaborate, working to become a highly effective team with a goal of improving patient outcomes.

[Read more](#) and [Register to join the celebration](#)

[Owens Among Ohio Community Colleges to Receive Grant for Educating Manufacturing Engineers](#)

The U.S. Department of Labor grant will educate and train manufacturing engineers for the state's advanced manufacturing workforce. [Read more](#)

[Owens Participates in Joint Effort to Train Workers for Hydrogen-Based Infrastructure](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy grant will support the Academic Programs to Enhance the Hydrogen Economy project. [Read more](#)

[Owens John Deere Tech Students Learning on Modern Equipment](#)

Owens received two of the latest top-of-the-line combines in January, and students will continue using them until the end of the term in early March. The college receives new combines every January for up to eight weeks. [Read more](#)

Alumni Spotlight: Alan Sattler

Alan M. Sattler, FACHE, MBA is a retired ProMedica Executive who is a life-long resident of Northwest Ohio.

Alan was President and had executive leadership oversight for ProMedica Coldwater Regional Hospital in his last role before he retired with ProMedica. Alan worked for ProMedica for over 38 years working in various progressive leadership, operational and financial roles. Alan was also President of ProMedica Flower Hospital for over 5 years.

In addition to his past roles with ProMedica, Alan is serving on the Toledo Fair Housing Center Board of Directors since 2017 and he chaired the Board from 2018-2021.

He also served over 14 years on the Owens Community College Foundation Board of Directors and its' various Committees; he chaired the Finance, Investment and Audit Committee for over 6 years. Alan is a graduate of Owens as well as The University of Toledo, where he holds undergraduate and MBA degrees.

He has been an adjunct professor at Lourdes University where he taught HealthCare Management course in the College of Business and Leadership for five years from 2018-2022. He joined the Lourdes Board in 2024 and serves on their Finance Committee as well. He also serves on the All Saints Catholic Church Endowment Committee.

He is a long-term member and fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (FACHE).

Alan plays golf, pickle ball, skis, both water and snow, and enjoys traveling, reading and history. He and his wife **Lisa** have been married for 40 years and have 3 adult sons. They reside in Northwest Ohio and enjoy a lake house in Quincy, Michigan.

Please join the Owens Foundation in welcoming Alan back onto the Board of Directors in 2025 and please continue sharing your Owens alumni success updates [here!](#)



Faculty Spotlight: Karl Parker



Karl Parker's career had taken him across the globe, so when he was set to retire and return to northwest Ohio, he had one question.

What's next?

Turns out, he found his "next" by being an adjunct instructor in Business Technologies at Owens Community College.

"I've always wanted to do some kind of teaching, and in corporate America, I'm doing teaching on a regular basis," Parker said. "As I was ready to retire from Saudi Aramco, I was thinking of ways to give back some of the global experience I had to students."

Parker is one of more than 780 adjunct instructors at Owens, a group of people who teach classes part-time in their specialized field of expertise.

A native of Toledo, Parker spent nearly 10 years as a Senior Business Excellence Consultant for Saudi Aramco in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. His professional career started in the early 1990s with Owens Corning and included various roles with different branches of General Electric. While he was accustomed to teaching in a corporate environment, he quickly realized he'd need to take a different approach with college students.

Parker said the process of becoming an adjunct was easy and stress-free, saying, "Everyone was completely helpful. They provided a pathway to learning how to do things. ... They set me up for success." [Read more](#)

Consider [joining the Owens family as faculty or staff](#) and foster student and community success for your "next!"

Adjunct instructor positions are currently in high demand in the fields of:

- Nursing - bachelor or master degree
- Sciences - master degree
- Advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, and transportation - associate or higher degree

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 **Carla Benjamin**, a dedicated community leader and advocate for hope, equity and opportunity. She is a graduate of the University of Findlay, where she earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish Business with a minor in Business Administration. Her educational foundation, combined with her lived experience, has fueled her passion for supporting individuals and families striving for a better future.

As Executive Director of Welcome to a New Life, Carla plays a pivotal role in guiding individuals on the path to personal transformation. Her career is rooted in service, with past roles as a Member Service Coordinator for the Chamber of Commerce, a Sales Representative at WKXA 100.5 and a long tenure at The Ohio Bank.

[Listen Here](#)

Beyond her professional achievements, Carla actively contributes to key community initiatives. She serves as co-chair of the Hancock County Community Coalition on Addiction - Community Awareness Committee and is a member of the Affordable Housing Alliance, the Community Corrections Planning Board and the Community Advisory Committee. She is a past member of the Hancock County Cultural Humility/Health Equity Delegation and past board member for Cancer Patient Services.

Carla's leadership is further strengthened by her Minority Executive Leadership Certificate and her Certificate for Nonprofit Management from the Toledo Center for Nonprofit Resources. As the daughter of a migrant worker who overcame cycles of poverty, illiteracy and addiction, Carla's story reflects her belief that everyone deserves hope and a second chance. She now works tirelessly to help others understand that, with hard work and determination, they too can create a new life for themselves and their families.

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](#)

Basketball Teams Playing for National Tournament Berths!

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



Sponsorship Opportunities Available

[Author Visit with Sara Novic](#): April 24
10am Toledo & 3:30pm Findlay

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

CULTIVATING *the* ARTS

SPARK SUMMIT

March 6, 9am-4pm

Owens Community Band

Sunday, March 9, 7pm

Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery

Passages:

Juried High School Art Show

Show on display through March 21

The Faces of Art Exhibit

Opening Reception April 4, 12-1pm

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](#)

Medicare 101 and the Inflation Reduction Act

FREE SEMINAR - MARCH 11, 2025
limited seating, registration required

KIDS SPRING CLASSES AND SUMMER CAMPS

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

Cats and Dogs Invade College Hall

PAWS events at Campus Connections

Your Foundation Support at Work

On behalf of the Owens Community College School of Liberal Arts and the Fine and Performing Arts Department, we invite you to join us at the 2025 **Creative Expressions: Passport to the Arts**, on **May 3, 2025 at 5:30 pm**. This semi-formal event has helped the Owens Community College Foundation endow an award fund for students majoring in our technical arts programs.



Creative Expressions: Passport to the Arts will showcase the arts through interactive and immersive stations where attendees can explore their own artistic talent. The evening will also include a silent auction and hors d'oeuvres catered by Carolyn's Catering. The event will conclude with the 2nd annual **Alumni Hall of Fame** awards ceremony.

Tickets to this year's event are \$65 for one person and \$100 per couple with **several levels of sponsorship** also available. As seats are limited, please **reserve your tickets or sponsorship** today. A portion of your purchase includes a donation to the Artistic Award Fund. To contribute to the silent auction, please email **Denise Grupp-Verbon**.

We hope to see you at this or one of the many other upcoming 2025 events and activities celebrating 60 years of Owens excellence! You may also choose to make a meaningful difference in students' lives by supporting any fund that matters most to you, or explore other ways to **increase your impact**. You can give easily online at the button below to make a one-time or recurring donation. As always, please feel free to **contact us** at any time with new ideas! Thank you for supporting the education and futures of students at Owens Community College.



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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