

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025

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Alumni Spotlight: Hall of Fame Inductees Honored at Creative Expressions

Owens Community College celebrated a special evening of interactive arts at Creative Expressions while also honoring the Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2025 on Saturday, May 3, 2025, at the Center for Fine and Performing Arts. [Read more](#)

Complete bios of the Alumni Hall of Fame Class of 2025 are available [here](#).

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



Owens Strengthens Regional Education Partnerships, Accelerates Pathways to Workforce Success with Penta and UToledo Collaborations

Owens Community College has reinforced its role as a pivotal connector in the regional education ecosystem with a pair of Express agreements designed to streamline students' pathways from high school through higher education and into the workforce. In collaboration with Penta Career Center and the University of Toledo (UToledo), Owens solidified separate agreements aimed at addressing the region's workforce needs and supporting economic growth in northwest Ohio. [Read more](#)

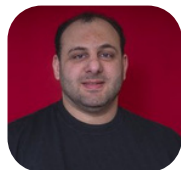


Owens Professor Jami Williamson Honored to Win Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award

As one of only five community colleges in Ohio to offer an associate degree in Exercise Science, Owens Community College is serving a unique student population. So unique, in fact, that Jami Williamson, professor of Therapeutic Services, said most people don't realize that the program is offered at Owens or the high quality of facilities at the Student Health and Activities Center. That relative anonymity is one of the reasons Williamson was excited to learn that she will be honored as a recipient of the 2025 Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Member award by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). [Read more](#)

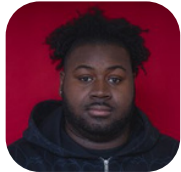


Bisher Mashal & Omare Moore Named Student Employees of the Year



Bisher Mashal

Student employees at Owens Community College hold a variety of positions, from connection mentors and reading tutors to front desk staff and office assistants. They're a vital part of the college community. The 103 students who were employed across 19 departments on the Toledo-area and Findlay-area Campuses during the 2024-25 academic year were honored earlier in April during an appreciation week that featured in-person and virtual events. Two students were also named the Student Employees of the Year - Bisher Mashal in the Outstanding Innovation and Technology category and Omare Moore in the Outstanding Leadership category.



Omare Moore

Mashal is majoring in Finance in the Business Transfer Pathway program and will graduate in Fall 2025. He works as the assistant digital publisher at the Student Media Center and as an office assistant at Career and Transfer Services (CTS).

Moore is majoring in Marketing and Sales and will graduate in Fall 2025. He's an office assistant in the TRIO office. [Read more](#)

Owens Grad Finds Calling as Emergency Medical Technician

Charles Peters spent a long time trying to find his purpose. Peters was set to start studying to become a radio announcer in Cleveland, but the day before he was set to start, something told him to look at what Owens Community College had to offer. That's how he found the Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program. [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 ODHE Chancellor Mike Duffey. Duffey was appointed the 11th Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) in January 2024. In this role, he oversees Ohio's two-year and four-year colleges, universities and Ohio Technical Centers, providing policy guidance to the Governor and General Assembly while implementing state higher education policy. In addition to his education policy work, Duffey played a pivotal role in the legal efforts that saved the Columbus Crew soccer franchise, earning him the Spirit of Columbus award from The Columbus Foundation. Chancellor Duffey holds an MBA from Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan. [Listen Here](#)

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

Schedules Available Soon:

[Express Men's Soccer](#)
[Express Women's Soccer](#)

Owens Volleyball Coach Sonny Lewis Receives NJCAA National Award

Lewis recently added another honor as one of the first coaches to receive the NJCAA Coaches Legacy Award, which recognizes the all-time winningest coaches in the association's history.

Free Ultrasounds

Owens Community College's General Sonography Program is offering FREE OB ultrasounds conducted by Owens Sonography students. This is open to the general public including students, faculty and staff. [More information](#)

Owens Adjunct Instructor and 2024 Alumni Hall of Fame Honoree

[Dr. David W. Seeger](#)
[Featured in WalletHub](#)

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 & SUMMER CAMPS

Scholarships are available!

Dotson Named Sergeant for Owens Department of Public Safety **Strategic Marketing Office Wins Seven National Awards**

Your Foundation Support at Work - Early Learning Center Receives Grant from Handbags That Help

The Owens Community College Early Learning Center, a 5-Star quality-rated program, has received a \$5,000 grant from the Handbags That Help Women's Giving Circle, a program of the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, to support the purchase and implementation of Creative Curriculum materials for its classrooms.



The grant, presented at an awards ceremony at the Findlay Country Club on April 9, will enhance the center's innovative, developmentally appropriate preschool programming for children ranging from toddlers to age 5.

The Owens Community College Foundation facilitated the grant application process.

"We are incredibly grateful to the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation and Handbags That Help for this generous support," said Danielle Davis, Development Officer of the Owens Community College Foundation. "Creative Curriculum is a nationally recognized tool that helps young children build the foundational skills they need for lifelong success, and this investment directly benefits families and children in our community."

Hosted by the Findlay-Hancock County Community Foundation, Handbags That Help is a women's giving circle dedicated to building strong families and increasing philanthropy in Hancock County. The organization collectively funds significant grants to charitable projects and programs in the community. The giving circle has awarded \$726,322 since it began in 2008.

For more information about the Owens Community College Early Learning Center, visit owens.edu/childcare.

To support the program, choose "Childcare Program Support Fund - Findlay" in the "I want to support" dropdown menu of the [online donation form](#).



Contact us!

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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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