

# OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE Foundation & Alumni



NEWSLETTER



JULY 2025

## In this issue:

- In Memoriam: [Long-Time Trustee, Foundation Director Talmage Advocated for Students](#)
- [Alumni Spotlights: School of Nursing and Health Professions STAR Honorees](#)
- [Honeybee Hives Produce Unexpected Opportunities for Owens Community](#)
- [Conversations Podcast](#) featuring [The Montrose Group](#), [Founder Dave Robinson](#)
- Department Announcements and Event Dates
- [Your Foundation Support at Work: "Raise Some Dough" on July 16th!](#)



## In Memoriam: Long-Time Trustee, Foundation Director Diana H. (Dee) Talmage Advocated for Students

Owens Community College Trustee and Former Board Chair **Diana H. (Dee) Talmage**, who dedicated her life to education and community service, has died after a brief illness. She was 85.

She served on the Owens board of trustees since her appointment in 2002. She was reappointed in 2008, 2014 and 2020. She twice led the board as chair from 2010-2013 and 2017-2019.

"Dee Talmage was a passionate advocate for students, higher education and the well-being of our communities. She will be missed by everyone who knew her and whose lives she impacted," Owens President **Dr. Dione D. Somerville** said. "Her deep commitment to Owens Community College's mission and her pride in the college was evident in every decision she made and every conversation she had. I benefited greatly from her experience and wisdom. Her legacy will continue to inspire all of us who had the privilege of working alongside her." [Read more](#)

## Alumni Spotlights: School of Nursing and Health Professions STAR Honorees

Owens Community College's School of Nursing and Health Professions held its third annual Certificate Celebration, recognizing the students who completed one of seven certificates that can lead to immediate job opportunities. This year, 88 students were honored in Certified Personal Trainer, Medical Coding, Dental Assistant, Expanded Functions Dental Assistant, Medical Assistant and Sterile Processing.

Each program also recognized a STAR student, which stands for Student Total Achievement Recognition. It's a prestigious honor presented to a student who exemplifies excellence in all areas of their academic and professional development.

This year's STAR winners were:

- **Rachelle Lerch** (Exercise Science Personal Trainer)
  - **Briana Logsdon** (Medical Assisting)
  - **Michael Blevins** (Medical Coding)
  - **Braden Hug** (Sterile Processing)
  - **Yolibel Dominguez** (Dental Assisting)
  - **Ashley Shinn** (Dental Assisting)
  - **Felicia Bettis** (Expanded Functions Dental Assistant)
- [Read more](#)

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

## Honeybee Hives Produce Unexpected Opportunities for Owens Community

Often misunderstood and wrongly feared, honeybees are vital to sustaining agricultural production, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture saying about 35% of the world's food crops depending on animal pollinators to produce.

Unfortunately, honeybee populations have steadily declined, with 2025 feared as an especially harsh year – as much as 70% colony losses are projected this year, according to various studies.

Part of the solution is happening at Owens Community College, which houses apiaries at both the Toledo-area and Findlay-area Campuses. It's a small but significant step needed to help a large part of our food production cycle.



The apiary on the Toledo-area Campus started in Spring 2019, with the Findlay apiary predating that. **Krista Kiessling**, director of the Campus and Community Connections who runs the hives, was a beekeeper at home. She knew the honey produced by the bees would be a good way to raise funds to support the Garden Harvest food pantry and community garden efforts.

"As with many things we do, it's an unexpected project at a community college campus," Kiessling said. [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](#)



[In this episode](#), Dr. Dione D. Somerville sits down with Dave Robinson, founder and principal of The Montrose Group, LLC, a national economic development and public affairs consulting firm based in Columbus, Ohio. With more than 30 years of experience at the intersection of government, business and public policy, Dave is a recognized leader in economic development strategy, corporate site location and advocacy.

Dave has guided Fortune 500 companies, mid-sized firms and local governments through complex development projects, helping clients secure millions of dollars in incentives and successfully expand or relocate across multiple states. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping strategic economic development plans that drive growth and resilience in both rural and urban communities.

[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 Now Available:

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

#### Owens Re-Engagement

[Restart Your Academic Career at Owens](#)

[Owens Offers Expanded Shuttle Service from Downtown Toledo](#)

### CULTIVATING *the* ARTS

#### [Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery](#)

"Super Natural"  
Jules Webster, Artist in Residency  
Show on display through August 1

#### 2025-2026 The BIG Read

#### Marian Schembari

[SAVE THE DATE: April 21, 2026](#)

### Work & Play

#### Career & Enrichment Classes:

[Basic Life Support/CPR](#)  
[Ceramics](#)  
[Computer Training](#)  
[Encaustic Painting w/Studio Time](#)  
[Online Professional Development](#)  
[Photography](#)  
[Podcasting and Vlogging](#)  
[Studio Art Welding](#)  
**[KIDS SPRING CLASSES & SUMMER CAMPS](#)**  
*Scholarships are available!*

## SAGA Group Helps LGBTQ Students Find a Safe Community

Owens will be participating in the [Toledo Pride](#) Parade on Saturday, August 16. Hope to see you there!



Please [join us](#) on September 15, 2025, at Belmont Country Club for an exciting day of golf and philanthropy at the **23rd Annual Golf Classic!** Sponsorships, foursomes, and drone drop tickets are available for purchase [now](#).

**Your Foundation Support at Work - "Raise Some Dough" on July 16th!**

Help "Raise Some Dough" for the Owens Community College Foundation by shopping at the Perrysburg Panera Bread from 4-8 p.m. July 16. A portion of the net sales made during that time will benefit the Foundation. Use code "**FUND4U**" at [panerabread.com](http://panerabread.com), in the Panera App or at the kiosk in the store.



**RAISE SOME DOUGH**  
*Help support us!*

30% of sales will benefit  
**OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

**July 16, 2025**  
**4:00 pm to 8:00 pm**  
**10981 Fremont Pike**  
**Perrysburg, OH**

In Cafe • Drive-Thru • Pick-Up • Delivery  
Enter promo code FUND4U at online checkout.

**Panera**  
**FUNDRAISING**



**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!](#)



OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
**FOUNDATION**