



Building Bridges

2008 Annual Report

Letter from the Chairman

Education is all a matter of building bridges. **Ralph Ellison**

As former United States Senator Claiborne Pell once said, "The strength of the United States is the sum total of the education and the character of our people." Thus, it is imperative for us, the Owens Community College Foundation, to do everything we can to support Owens Community College in its mission to make a college education accessible to students across Northwest Ohio. We must build bridges.

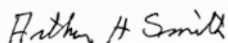
There are some key, indispensable elements to building a strong bridge, including its design, placement, foundation and construction, to ensure that the bridge will be strong enough to weather the elements and stand the test of time. Such a bridge will allow travelers to overcome obstacles in their paths and continue their journey towards their eventual destination.

Each and every day, Owens Community College serves as a bridge, helping students to achieve educational success, overcome obstacles, transform their lives, and equip them to seize opportunities to enrich their lives. The Owens Community College Foundation supports the College by providing resources to help it fulfill its mission and build those bridges. Among other things, through our funding of the Success Program, we provide a bridge between the student's financial need and the tuition at Owens. And, for those entering the Success Program who are not quite ready for the academic rigors of Owens, we make another academic bridge available through our Summer Bridge to Success Program.

Last year, Jessica Zilke, recipient of an Owens Community College Foundation scholarship, sent the Board of Directors a note thanking us for granting her a scholarship. Jessica wrote, "Your generosity is allowing me to pursue my goals and fulfill the dream that I have to continue my education."

On behalf of all our scholarship recipients, the Owens Community College Foundation thanks all of its donors and supporters for helping the Foundation support students like Jessica and build bridges to success! We couldn't provide those resources without you, our donors and supporters.

Very truly yours,



Arthur H. Smith
Chairman,
Board of Directors



MISSION of the Owens Community College Foundation

Owens Community College Foundation develops and provides resources to advance the College's mission of serving our students and our community. *We Invest in Your Success.*

Condensed Statement of Activities

Years ended June 30, 2009 and 2008

FY2009	FY2008	
REVENUE AND SUPPORT:		
Contributions	\$ 345,492	\$ 409,447
Investment Income and Gains	39,291	91,495
Other Revenue	107,132	74,192
Total revenue and support	491,915	575,134
EXPENSES:		
Program services:		
Scholarships	\$ 105,466	\$ 109,170
Capital / equipment grants	34,997	34,806
Outside grants expense	106,158	74,192
Other program services	31,785	31,925
Total program services	278,406	250,093
Operating Expenses	43,603	43,064
Investment Unrealized Losses	291,421	256,865
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 613,430	\$ 550,022
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$ (121,515)	\$25,112
NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,152,144	\$ 2,127,032
NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR	\$ 2,030,629	\$ 2,152,144

VISION of the Owens Community College Foundation

The Owens Community College Foundation believes that higher education should be available to everyone. The Foundation will work to remove barriers to education by providing student scholarships and supporting growth and innovation at Owens Community College.

CORE VALUES of the Owens Community College Foundation

1. Access, Innovation and Excellence in Education
2. Outstanding Service
3. Ethical and Visionary Leadership

A Word from our Donors

“When I contribute to the Owens Foundation, I expect that every gift – no matter how great or small – will be invested in student success.” **Dr. Adams**



CHRISTA ADAMS

As president of Owens Community College, Dr. Christa Adams sees students’ lives change every day. She has dedicated her life to opening doors to higher education, and she’s passionate about scholarships assisting

students who dream of a better life. In 2004, President Adams proudly established the James A. Adams Memorial Scholarship fund in memory of her father. This is a gift, which will keep on giving for the benefit of our students for many years to come.

President Adams’ philosophy is to “give to organizations that change lives, where every dollar can make a difference.” She is motivated to help students through her donations because she knows from first-hand experience that scholarships can help students stay in school, graduate and transform their lives. She completed her undergraduate education as a single working parent with three small children, and she and her family could not have survived financially without the scholarship assistance that she received.

“When I give to the Owens Foundation, I know that the smallest gift can make a big difference in a student’s life. When I sit on the commencement stage, I can only imagine the number of individuals who have contributed to the success of the thousands of students who cross that stage,” said President Adams.

The reward in giving is more than the gift itself. In 2007, President Adams inspired the Foundation Board of Directors and the College Development staff to create a scholarship program that would remove financial barriers to low-income students who never thought that they would have the chance to go to college. In 2008, the Success Program was launched. Qualifying students who receive partial financial aid in the form of a Pell grant are eligible for Success Scholarships.

The Success Program initially included high school graduates from the Toledo Public School District and Findlay City Schools. In 2009, a \$10,000 donation from President Adams led the Foundation to expand the program to include Washington Local Schools and in August, 40 Whitmer High School graduates enrolled at Owens Community College through the Foundation’s Success Program.



JIM GEERS

Jim and Marsha Geers consider themselves to be very fortunate, and they have always been generous givers, knowing that there are those who are in need.

“As our success grew, we were able to do more,” Geers said.

He joined the Foundation Board of Directors in 2006 because he believed in Owens’ mission. He was then Vice President of Global Human Resources at Cooper Tire & Rubber Company in Findlay. Cooper Tire has a

matching gift program, and so over time the impact of the Geers’ gifts has been even greater. Now retired, he remains active in Foundation events and activities. It is his firm belief that “youth are our future” and that, with many challenges ahead in their young lives, education is critical to their future success.

The Geers have chosen to designate their gifts to the Owens Community College Foundation as “unrestricted,” confident that the money will be well spent. When asked what is most rewarding about giving, he responded that it comes from the heart. He and his wife do not give for the glory and recognition. Rather, when they see the results of their gifts and how their gifts can make someone else’s life better, “it’s a great feeling.”

Scholarship Recipient Profile: **LaDonna Knabbs**

In May 2009, Owens Community College celebrated as more than 700 graduates achieved their goal of earning a college degree. None of the graduates had more to celebrate than LaDonna Knabbs, a graduate with a Sociology concentration who also achieved the distinction of becoming the first Owens Community College Honors Graduate.

Although Knabbs left high school with dreams of future college and career success, she had many obstacles to overcome on her journey to becoming a college graduate. At a young age, she became a single parent and had to put her dreams and goals on hold. As time passed, she feared she might not have the ability to ever earn a college degree.

In Fall 2007, Knabbs enrolled at Owens Community College. That same year, and again in 2008, she was a recipient of a scholarship from the Toledo Community Foundation – George and Luella Shoemaker Fund. This scholarship helped Knabbs to pursue her education while juggling competing demands from her family and two jobs. In 2008, Knabbs expressed her appreciation for the scholarship, writing “Please know that your investment in my educational goals will provide a positive return for years to come.”

Now confident of her future, Knabbs says she is “eternally grateful to the Toledo Community Foundation” and “intends to provide them with a substantial return” for their investment in her education. She says she no longer allows the fear of failure to keep her from pursuing her dreams.

Currently, Knabbs is pursuing a bachelor’s degree in sociology at the University of Toledo, where she says she “sits in classes fearless and prepared to continue on my original journey of achieving greatness.” Eventually, she plans to earn her master’s and Ph.D. in sociology as well and to develop and implement innovative, preventive programs at battered women’s shelters.



The Success Program



WHAT IS THE SUCCESS PROGRAM?

The Owens Community College Foundation Success Scholarship Program is designed to provide students with greater access to higher education by bridging the gap between financial aid received and the cost of tuition (general and instructional fees) at Owens. Launched in 2008, the Success Scholarship Program was piloted with students from Woodward High School in Toledo and Findlay High School. For the 2009-10 academic year, the program has been expanded to include all high schools within the Toledo Public School District (TPS) as well as Whitmer High School in the Washington Local School District.

WHAT IS THE BRIDGE TO SUCCESS PROGRAM?

The Bridge to Success Program was created as a supplement to the Success Program and is designed to prepare students for college-level work. The Bridge Program was piloted with students from Woodward High School in Summer 2008, continued in Fall 2008 and expanded to include TPS, Whitmer and Findlay high schools in Summer 2009.

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS?

- Thirty students from Woodward High School Class of 2008 and 24 students from Findlay High School enrolled as Success Program students in Fall 2008.
- 79.6% of Success Program students returned for the Spring 2009 semester.

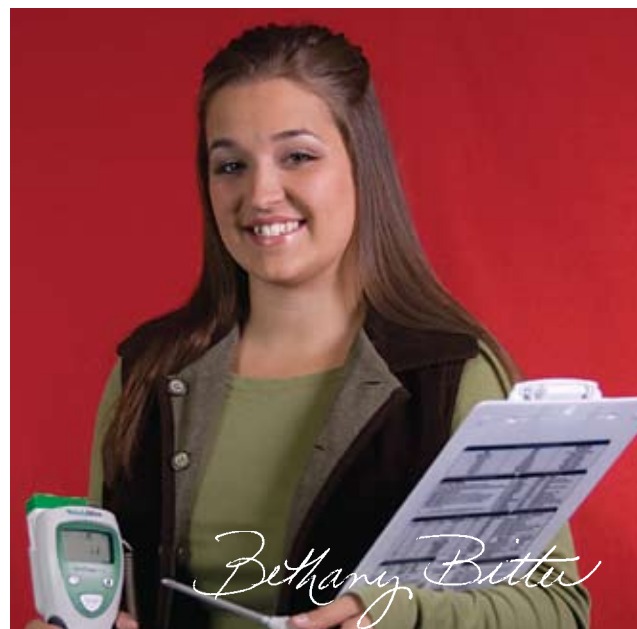
One Year of Success

Imagine a scenario in which you are travelling from the “old world” to the “new”, preparing to leave behind your old life and all that is familiar. You know that the future holds many opportunities and possibilities, and it is an exciting time. Although you have the support of your friends and family, you must make this journey alone. Imagine how much easier that journey would be if you had bridges to help you cross over any obstacles you might encounter along the way.

This was the scenario confronting Success Students from Woodward and Findlay High Schools in August 2008 as they embarked on their first semester of college.

Lacey Hudspeth says that she was surprised by the amount of self-discipline required once she started her classes. It was a challenge to adapt to coursework at the college level, with a different style of instruction. The Bridge to Success program was immensely helpful for Hudspeth, particularly as it continued throughout the academic year. Structured study time, meal tickets and bus tokens all helped to alleviate academic and financial stress. Hudspeth adds that the network she now has of other Bridge and Success Program students, as well as the college’s supportive staff, has been the key to her success.

Bethany Bitter did not participate in the Summer 2008 Bridge program, but joined in Fall 2008. Without the Bridge program, she says she “would have been lost”, as staff helped her to schedule all her classes and mentored her through challenging coursework. Had she not come to Owens, Bitter says she would be working instead of being well on her way to earning an Associate’s degree in Medical Assisting. Bitter plans to graduate in Fall 2010 as a Medical Assistant and hopes to complete a degree in Radiology.



Alumni Association

Since 2002, the Owens Community College Alumni Association has been actively engaged in building bridges for Owens students, alumni and communities across Northwest Ohio.

Giving back to the College and current students, the Alumni Association actively supports student scholarships such as the Detective Keith Dressel Memorial Endowed Scholarship. Additionally, the Association established the Alumni Legacy Endowed Scholarship Fund, the balance of which exceeded \$120,000 as of June 2009. This fund has provided thirteen scholarships through June 2009. These scholarships are supported by the annual Golf Classic, which also supports on-going alumni outreach initiatives such as the Backpack to the Future campaign and the Association's sponsorship of a classroom on the Findlay-area Campus. Held each year since 2003, the Golf Classic has to date raised more than \$180,000 for scholarships and outreach initiatives, including more than \$30,000 netted at the 2008 Classic.

The Association continued to engage Owens alumni through annual events such as Whitewater Rafting, Mud Hens Night, Phonathons, Shop 'Til You Drop and the Winter Ski Trip. In March 2009, the Association sponsored its first Alumni Night at the Center for Fine and Performing Arts with ABBA-Mania. More than 70 people attended the Disco Ball Reception and enjoyed an incredible performance.

Building on the Owens Community College tradition of providing state-of-the art training to first responders for more than four decades, the Alumni Association has since 2004 sponsored the Outstanding Service Awards, celebrating the contributions of fire, police and emergency responders in keeping Northwest Ohio communities safe. In 2009 a new category, Community Spirit, was added to recognize the contributions of private citizens who work with law enforcement to serve their communities.

To reach out to younger members of the community, the Alumni Association gathered more than 300 backpacks and 5,000 pieces of school supplies for kindergarten students as part of the 2008 Backpack to the Future Campaign. Students at Lincoln Academy for Boys, Sherman Elementary and Westfield Elementary (Toledo Public Schools); Northview Primary (Findlay City Schools) and Wood County Educational Services at Glenwood (Rossford), which serves six Wood County School Districts including 12 elementary schools, benefited. Mini-assemblies were held at the schools to tell these young students about Owens Community College and how the College is here to serve their higher education needs.





In addition to scholarships, the Foundation supports the mission of Owens Community College by funding other programs and initiatives. In 2008-09, generous donations enabled the Foundation to provide more than \$170,000 in funding for programs and activities that benefited students, faculty and staff, as well as the Northwest Ohio community.

Continuing a tradition of sharing the arts with the community, the Foundation partnered with The Andersons, Owens Corning and the Owens Community College Alumni Association to sponsor performances at the Center for Fine and Performing Arts, including the Dance Theatre of Harlem, Revolution, the Beatles Tribute, the Legend in Black and ABBA-Mania. During Black History month, the Foundation sponsored a Master Artist Class with Willis "Bing" Davis at the 20 North Gallery in Toledo.

During the past academic year, Foundation funds were used to assist students in a variety of ways other than scholarship support. The Medical Imaging Department paid licensure fees for its outstanding

graduates. Through the Auto Dealers United for Kids, the Foundation purchased valuable automotive tools. Foundation dollars were used to purchase recreational equipment for the Findlay Wellness Center, open to students, faculty and staff.

Reaching out to meet the needs of the community, Foundation funds, courtesy of First Energy, helped to develop a firefighter course in conjunction with the Ohio Fire Academy.

Donations to the Owens Community College Foundation are used in a multitude of ways to directly and positively affect both the College and Northwest Ohio. For more information on supporting the Foundation's programs, please call Ann Savage at (567) 661-7184, email ann_savage@owens.edu or visit www.owens.edu/foundation/index.html.

An Uncommon Evening Gala Event

In October, 2008, the Owens Community College Foundation held its first gala event "An Uncommon Evening" in conjunction with the Hilton Garden Inn Perrysburg's Grand Opening. Guests were welcomed by Master of Ceremonies "Elvis", the King himself, during an evening of uncommon dining and uncommon entertainment in support of the Foundation's Success Scholarship Program.

Joining Elvis in entertaining the more than 240 guests were the Toledo School for the Arts' giant Pageant Puppets and drummers from Glass City Steel; the instrumental Owens student ensemble Jazz Express and Tapestry, the duo of Owens faculty member Denise Grupp-Verbon on folk harp and Michael Grupp-Verbon on acoustic guitar. Including both a "silent" and a very "loud" auction, the evening raised more than \$30,000

to support scholarships for Owens Success Program students. Special thanks go to Summa Cum Laude Sponsors National City Bank, Dillin Corporation, Gateway Hospitality Group, Markey's Rental and Staging, The McMaster Family Foundation, O-I and the Owens Alumni Association, in addition to Magna Cum Laude Sponsor, Buckeye CableSystem.



The next "An Uncommon Evening" in support of the Success Scholarship program will be March 26, 2010.

2008 Donor List

Thank you to our 2008 supporters.

These gifts were received during the 2008 Annual Giving Campaign and/or during Fiscal Year 2009 which began July 1, 2008.*

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The Foundation often receives gifts in honor or memory of a cherished friend, relative or co-worker. The names of people so honored by gifts during the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year are listed below:

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