

SPOTLIGHT ON *Success*



OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION

SPRING 2021

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Owens Community College Foundation newsletter – Spotlight on Success. As you read through these articles, you will discover stories about many exciting initiatives, the impact donors like you have on student success, and more.



April is an exciting time for Owens as we celebrate national community college month. Throughout the month, you will learn about our outstanding alumni and experience heartfelt stories of how their success began at Owen Community College. Please be sure to follow us on social media so you don't miss any of these genuinely impactful stories.

As we continue to move past a challenging year due to the pandemic, your support is needed. It has never been more critical for Owens to continue implementing access and

success initiatives. Access initiatives include student services such as advising, financial aid, scholarships, and assistance for Veterans. Success initiatives include efforts that help impact a student's ability to reach completion, such as tutoring and assistance with food insecurities.

Our mission focuses on helping students achieve economic and social mobility through quality higher education and training. Owens is not just a career pathway; it is an education superhighway, and our success depends on your support. Please consider a donation to the Owens Foundation at owens.edu/give.

In the meantime, please enjoy reading the Spotlight on Success newsletter from the Owens Foundation.

Sincerely,

Diana "Dee" Talmage
Chair, Owens Foundation Board of Directors

You did this!

On Giving Tuesday, you came together and raised money to deliver much-needed support to students facing unexpected hardships. You helped us provide over \$10,600 of support to the Owens Student Emergency Assistance Fund. Thank you so much for your generosity!

GIVINGTUESDAY

With your funding, the Owens Community College Foundation offered assistance through this program to students experiencing sudden financial hardships preventing them from being successful in their academic endeavors. Your gifts immediately impacted their circumstances by covering the cost of education-related expenses such as books, supplies, uniforms, and scrubs. We were able to offer resources to help cover expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, automobile expenses, public transportation, medical bills, child care, and more to students who needed it. With your support to the Student Emergency Assistance Program, our students no longer have to worry about not making it to class because they can't afford things such as gas, babysitters, or textbooks due to circumstances beyond their control. ●

Owens student participating in our Give Kids A Smile event, a free event giving basic care to kids in need.



94¢ of every dollar
you donate goes directly towards
student scholarships and
program support.



Over 200 Grateful Students

When you unleash your power of giving, great things happen. One of the great things that you make happen every year is assisting Owens students with scholarships. Since 2002, the Foundation has disbursed more than \$2.6 million in scholarships to students because of donor support. **This year alone, you have enabled us to award over 200 students with scholarships that totaled more than \$325,000!** Scholarship amounts vary, but regardless of the amount granted, each award has a significant impact on Owens students' lives.

Over 385 students have applied to receive scholarship funds for the upcoming academic year. We award as many as we can with as much as we can and are grateful to the generous donors who make it possible to ease the burden of tuition to as many students as possible. ●

RaShada Bruce

(current student)

Won top prize at the 81st annual Intercollegiate Broadcasting System (IBS) awards, "Best Public Affairs Radio Program"



In Their Own Words

"I am overjoyed and completely filled with gratitude...words cannot explain how grateful I am for this opportunity. I will be putting every inch of my fiber into my studies and every assignment in order to become successful. I hope to one day be able to help a student in my similar situation... When I saw the e-mail I immediately stood up and celebrated with my family over the good news. Not only have you filled my heart but the heart of my family members. All the hard work and diligence has paid off in this current moment."

- Alexander A. Gomez

Allan & Suzanne Libbe Endowed Scholarship

"I truly have no words other than 'grateful' to describe how I am feeling about receiving this scholarship. Thanks to you and your generosity, I will be able to go through nursing school without the extra burden of financial troubles... It brings tears to my eyes to know how deeply you care about the success of nursing students. I am reminded that if we all give where we can, financially, emotionally, etc. that we will all be taken care of. This scholarship has been the biggest answer to my prayers. Thank you so much. I am eternally grateful."

- Ania Rodriguez

James & Jeannette (Croubels) Johnson Memorial Scholarship

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It brings tears to my eyes to know how deeply you care about the success of nursing students.

Owens Facts

Owens Community College welcomes a diverse community of learners. Our open admissions policy provides access and opportunity to a wide variety of students.

Student-to-faculty ratio of

15 to 1

The median age of Owens students is

22

More than
59%
of our students receive financial aid.

Our three-year graduation rate is

22%

- ✓ More than half of our students self-identify as first-generation college students.
- ✓ Our international student body represents 28 countries and five continents.
- ✓ Our military veteran population is approximately 300 students.
- ✓ Two-thirds of the student body are enrolled part-time.
- ✓ More than 18% of our students are of minority populations.
- ✓ Registered Nursing and Pre-Nursing are our top-enrolling programs followed by our technical Business Management and Business Transfer programs.
- ✓ We granted 1,777 awards in Academic Year 2020, including 1,056 degrees and 721 certificates.

Unleash Your Power through Giving

Each year, funds are raised through the Annual Giving Campaign to support student scholarships and program initiatives not funded through tax dollars. Donors like you enable the Foundation to support programs at Owens such as Tutoring, Veterans Services, Advising, Disability Services, Counseling, Career Services, and so much more!

This year's campaign, **The Power of Giving**, kicked off in November with the highest annual giving goal ever set by the Owens Foundation - to raise \$550,000 to support Owens students.

As of March 1, due to support from alumni, faculty, staff, friends, and community supporters, the campaign has raised an impressive \$283,744 in gifts and pledges! Thank you! Please consider donating today to help us raise the remaining \$266,256 and realize the power you have to impact students' lives. An investment in Owens Community College is an investment in the economic future of Northwest Ohio. ●

THE
Power
OF
Giving



Owens Receives Award from OEDA

Owens Community College's Dana Advanced Manufacturing Training Center has been awarded the 2020 Annual Excellence in Workforce Development by the Ohio Economic Development Association (OEDA). This award recognizes unique approaches to workforce development and acknowledges an organization that has developed innovative practices and programs.

"We are pleased to have been recognized by the OEDA for the College's commitment to workforce development. The Dana Center represents the College's latest significant investment to directly impact Northwest Ohio's regional economy," stated Bill Balzer, interim president, Owens Community College. "A skilled workforce is critical to fill thousands of new and existing jobs in manufacturing and aligned careers throughout our region and the state. The Dana Center was specifically designed to meet these needs now and well into the future. We thank Dana Incorporated and other supporters for joining us in meeting the region's training needs for the new and incumbent workers for decades to come."

Owens was nominated for the OEDA award by project architect Tim Swartz from SSOE Group. Headquartered in

Toledo with a national and global footprint, SSOE is a leader in aligning education design with workforce needs. ●



About **80%** of graduates are employed in the state of Ohio one year following graduation.

Investing in Innovation

In 2019, the Owens Foundation embarked upon a capital campaign to raise \$2 million for construction and equipment for the Dana Advanced Manufacturing Training Center at the Owens Community College Toledo-area campus. Thank you to Dana Incorporated, who kicked off the campaign with a \$1 million lead gift, and the Gene Haas Foundation for their incredible \$250,000 contribution.

The new 59,000 square-foot Dana Center will expand existing education and training opportunities for students and industry partners in advanced manufacturing, skilled trades, and related fields. Major labs include the 7,000-square-

foot Gene Haas CNC Machining lab along with Robotics and PLC, Electrical, Mechanical, Pneumatics, Hydraulics, CAD, HVAC, and Plumbing. Dana Incorporated and the Gene Haas Foundation's significant investments in Owens will provide training and increase skilled personnel entering the workforce to meet the industry's urgent employment demands.

So far, the campaign has raised \$1.76 million. Fundraising efforts continue in order to secure the remaining \$240,000, with additional naming rights still available within the facility. Stay tuned for more information regarding the official grand opening ceremony happening this fall to celebrate this innovative facility. ●





Have your gift to Owens matched!

WITH MATCHING GIFTS, IT IS POSSIBLE TO DOUBLE OR EVEN TRIPLE YOUR GIFT!

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match most charitable contributions made by their employees. Some companies even match gifts made by retirees and spouses or award money to Owens for your volunteer hours! To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, reach out to your company's HR department. Most of the time, it's as easy as filing out a form online. ●



Julian Kelson (*alum*)
Parks Technician for Metroparks Toledo



Grace Hansen (*alum and transfer student, graduated from Ohio State in 2020*)

Leave Your Mark



If the quality education that Owens Community College provides has positively impacted you, you can ensure

it continues for generations to come by joining the Crystal Legacy Society with a gift in your estate plan.

When you include Owens in your estate plans, you enhance our ability to provide program support and scholarship opportunities. You may name the College in your will or trust or as a beneficiary of life insurance, retirement, or other plans. What a remarkable legacy!

Thank you to the members of the Owens Community College Crystal Legacy Society. We thank you, and future students will thank you, too. ●

CRYSTAL LEGACY SOCIETY

- Peggy Bensman
- Emilie Bowser
- Jim and Marsha Geers
- John and Margaret Grigsby Living Trust
- Earl Johnson Estate
- Dan and Cindy Kimmet
- Edwin G. Knepper Trust
- Judge Richard Reinbolt
- Yvonne and Stanley Scott
- Dr. Lance and Diana H. (Dee) Talmage



Amy Jeffers (*adjunct faculty*) assisted with the Brown Bag Food Project in Wood County, providing needed food and hygiene items.

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- Sarah Hickernell**
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- Jess Worley**
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