

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Foundation & Alumni

..... AWARD-WINNING E-NEWSLETTER

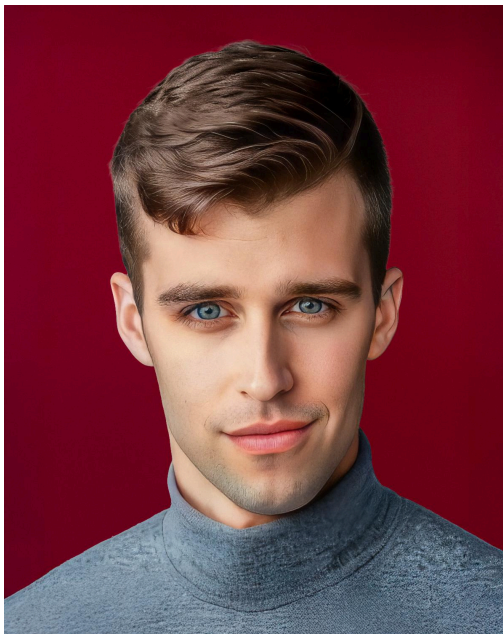


APRIL 2026

Alumni Spotlight: Class of 2026 Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees

After reviewing a highly competitive pool of nominations, the Alumni Committee of the Owens Community College Foundation Board has officially selected the **Class of 2026 inductees to the Alumni Hall of Fame**. These distinguished honorees will be recognized during **Commencement** on May 8 at the Huntington Center in downtown Toledo.

Join us in celebrating these exceptional alumni, whose professional accomplishments, commitment to education and proud representation of Owens continue to make a meaningful impact in our community and beyond. Please continue sharing your Owens alumni success updates [here](#)!



Andrew Kleopfer

'18 AA – Communication Studies Transfer
School of Liberal Arts Inductee



Ed Kubiak

'97 AAB – Microcomputer Business Systems
School of Business, Hospitality & Public Safety Inductee



Nilgun Sezginis

'04 AAS – Health Information Management Systems
School of Nursing and Health Professions Inductee



Mark White

'97 AAP – Automotive Technology
School of STEM Inductee

Owens Foundation Scholarships Top \$300K

Each year, the Owens Community College Foundation works to connect students with the financial support they need to succeed, and this year, that commitment has never been stronger.

For the 2026-27 academic year, the Foundation is offering more than 300 scholarship opportunities totaling over \$300,000, an increase of more than 60 opportunities and \$60,000 from the previous year. One application and a brief 100-word personal statement is all it takes for a student to be considered for every available scholarship.

The priority deadline is Monday, June 1, and scholarships are re-awarded throughout the year until all funds are depleted. Students can apply at

owens.edu/foundation/scholarships

Your support makes opportunities like these possible. To support Owens students by contributing to Foundation scholarships, visit

owens.edu/foundation/annualgiving-form



Autism Memoir Author Marian Schembari Visits Owens

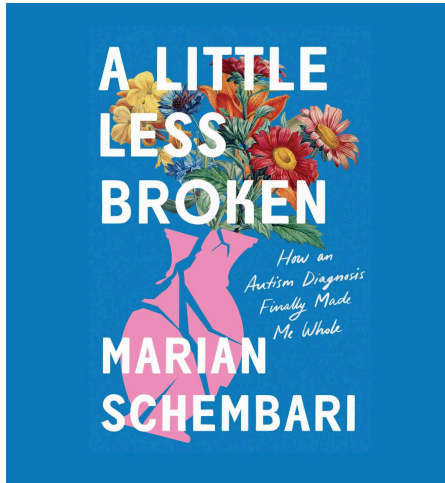
Owens Community College welcomed author Marian Schembari to campus April 21-22 as part of The BIG Read, the college's annual campus read event now in its sixth year.

Schembari, author of *A Little Less Broken: How an Autism Diagnosis Finally Made Me Whole*, discussed her book and signed copies at the CFPA Theatre on the Toledo-area

Campus and the Findlay-Hancock County Public Library. Her visit also included a hands-on writing workshop at the CFPA, where she guided participants through exercises in personal narrative and finding their authentic voice.

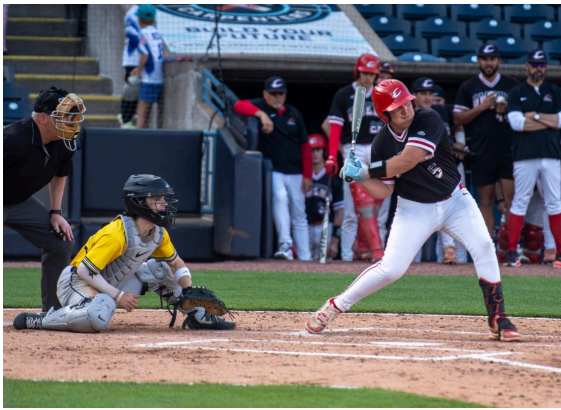
The BIG Read spent the 2024-25 academic year exploring the themes of neurodivergence, identity and belonging through Schembari's work, which recounts her journey to an autism diagnosis at age 34. Programming throughout the year included monthly book club discussions, Autism Awareness Week and a student art exhibit.

For more information on The BIG Read, visit owens.edu/humanities/read.



Express Baseball Takes the Field at Fifth Third Field

On April 17, the Owens Express baseball team made a memorable stop at Fifth Third Field in Toledo, home of the AAA Toledo Mud Hens, for a doubleheader against Lorain County Community College. It was a rare opportunity for our student-athletes to compete in a professional stadium — the same field where future and former Major Leaguers have played. For many of these young men, stepping onto that diamond was a highlight of their college careers. The Owens community showed up to cheer them on and share in a truly special day with the Express.



Owens Police Training Academy Earns Prestigious State Designation

The Owens Community College Police Training Academy is one of only three Toledo-area academies to hold the Ohio Attorney General's STAR Program designation, an honor recognizing law enforcement training programs that exceed state standards.

The designation was created by Attorney General Dave Yost to encourage training providers to better prepare officers to serve and protect their communities. To qualify, academies must meet more than a dozen criteria above and beyond the Ohio Peace Officer Training Commission's standard requirements.

Academy Manager Mark King credited months of dedicated work by his staff to compile the documentation required for the designation. "This designation strengthens our public safety footprint across northwest Ohio and affirms that Owens is raising the bar for law enforcement training in our region," King said.

The designation was presented during a ceremony attended by Owens president Dr. Dione D. Somerville, college leadership and several state and local elected officials.

Owens Instructor Genesis Downey Earns National Teaching Honor

Genesis Downey, a humanities instructor at Owens Community College, has been named a recipient of the Dale P. Parnell Distinguished Faculty Award by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). The designation recognizes individuals making a difference in the classroom.



Downey has taught in the humanities department at Owens for nearly 24 years, offering courses in Composition, Creative Writing, Introduction to Pop Culture and Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as honors courses through the Honors Program.

"My goal is for students to finish my classes with a better sense of agency," she said. "They are in control of their critical thinking and writing. And the skills they learn in the class can be applied to the rest of their lives."

Downey was honored at the AACC's annual conference in Seattle.



24th Annual Owens Community College Foundation Golf Classic

Join us for a day on the greens supporting strategic initiatives at Owens Community College at the 24th Annual Foundation Golf Classic on **Monday, September 21** at Belmont Country Club.

Registration and sponsorship opportunities coming soon. For more information, contact the Owens Foundation at foundation@owens.edu



Invest in a Student's Future: Support Owens Scholarships

Behind every Owens student is a story of determination. Many are working full-time, raising families and taking classes — all at once. When an unexpected bill or financial hardship hits, your support can be the difference between a student who perseveres and one who has to walk away.

Your gift keeps their story going. Contribute to the Owens Foundation today, visit owens.edu/foundation/annualgiving-form



Buffalo Wild Wings Fundraiser

Join us for fundraiser between
4-9 p.m. on Wednesday, May 27
at the Buffalo Wild Wings at
15080 Flag City Dr. – Findlay.

*Show this flyer and Buffalo Wild Wings will
donate 15% of your total bill to the Owens
Foundation (not including tax, gratuity,
alcohol or promotional discounts).
Call in orders are also accepted, just
mention this flyer!*

CHECK OUT ALL OF OUR EVENTS!
owens.edu/events | owens.edu/express



foundation@owens.edu
owensalumni@owens.edu
(567) 661-7100



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Owens Community College | 30335 Oregon Road | Perrysburg, OH 43551 US

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