

OWENS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Foundation & Alumni

..... AWARD-WINNING E-NEWSLETTER



August 2026

Owens Launches Owens Has Heart Initiative

Owens Community College introduced Owens Has Heart, a new initiative giving greater visibility to the qualities that have defined the college for more than 60 years, during President Dr. Dione D. Somerville's State of the College address in August.



The initiative is built around five pillars: Heart for Students, Heart for Teaching and Learning, Heart for Employees, Heart for Community and Heart for the Future. Each reflects a piece of what makes an Owens education distinct, from the way students are welcomed and supported to the college's deep ties with regional employers and communities.

Owens Has Heart launched with a new video featuring 30 students, eight employees and two community members, narrated by Owens student and spoken word artist Shelby Faulkner. For donors and supporters, the video offers a firsthand look at the human impact behind every gift to the Foundation.

[Watch the full video on the Owens YouTube channel!](#)



Welcome Back, Owens Students!

Fall semester kicked off August 24. For some students, this fall marks a return to finish what they started, another step closer to a certificate or degree. For others, it's day one of an entirely new chapter, full of possibility and a little bit of nerves.

Wherever they're starting from, the Owens Community College Foundation is cheering them on. Each year, Foundation scholarships help hundreds of students cover tuition, books and other costs that might otherwise stand in the way. That support can be the difference between a student finishing strong and a student stepping away.

Want to help write the next success story? Consider a gift to the Foundation today and help open doors for Owens students this fall and beyond. Make your donation today at owens.edu/about/giving.



Last Call: Golf Classic Tees Off Sept. 21

Time is running out to join the Owens Foundation Golf Classic at Belmont Country Club on Sept. 21. It's a great day on the course for a great cause, with proceeds supporting scholarships and student success programs across Owens.

Haven't purchased your Drone Drop ticket yet? Don't miss your chance to win big. Prizes include \$1,000 cash, two season tickets to the Marathon Center for the Performing Arts, two tickets to a BGSU football game and a Toledo Zoo family membership.

Businesses and community partners can also make an impact through event sponsorship, with packages offering visibility to hundreds of golfers, alumni and community leaders.

Ready to tee up, drop a ticket or sponsor the event? **Register today.**

School of Liberal Arts Alumni: Mentors Needed!



Owens Community College has launched a virtual mentorship and networking community through Upnotch, and the School of Liberal Arts is the first program to join. We're looking for alumni ready to become mentors.

Your experience can help connect Owens students with valuable guidance, industry connections and career opportunities. There's no fixed schedule or commitment. You choose when and how often you meet with students virtually.

As a mentor, you'll also gain access to the broader Upnotch network, connecting with alumni, professionals, employers and fellow mentors.

Once you join, you can:

- Create a profile highlighting your experience
- Set your availability and meeting preferences
- Accept meetings that work for you
- Pause your profile anytime

Join us in helping create meaningful pathways for student success and regional growth.

Join here

CODE: TFYCGE

Questions?

Contact Shana Holzer at shana_holzer@owens.edu

Reconnect Through Common Time

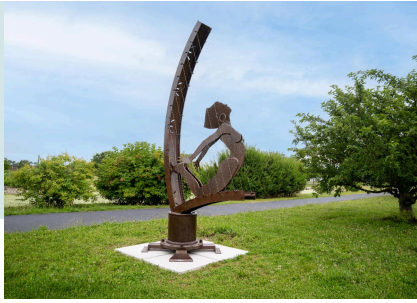
The Department of Creative Arts & Media encourages students and alumni to build relationships, discuss projects and learn about resources and opportunities. Join a virtual session each Friday from noon to 1 p.m. See the **Fall 2026 Common Time schedule**.



"Birds and Sky" Exhibit

The Walter E. Terhune Art Gallery welcomes "Birds and Sky," featuring new work developed by eight regional artists to memorialize the annual warbler migration through northwest Ohio and The Biggest Week in American Birding. The exhibit is open through October 16.

Sculpture Walk Opening Celebration



Celebrate the new sculpture walk with an opening celebration on **Thursday, September 3** from **5-7 p.m.** Enjoy the sculptures at the Center for Fine and Performing Arts courtyard and engage with artists that created the pieces. Light refreshments will be served.

Warren & Flick: Accent on the Arts Concert

The Accent on the Arts free concert series is excited to welcome Warren & Flick to the Center for Fine and Performing Arts Main Stage Theater at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 14. This free event is open to the public. With Jacob Warren on double and tenor bass and Grant Flick on violin, tenor guitar and nyckelharpa, Warren & Flick crafts a sound that blends original composition and improv with classical, jazz and folk traditions.



You can find the complete Accent on the Arts schedule at owens.edu/arts.



Owens Grad Wins National Surgical Tech Honors in First Year on the Job

Maijoy Wooten graduated from Owens in May as the Surgical Technology Program's outstanding graduate. Months later, she's already turning heads in her field.

This summer, Wooten received the Student Academic Merit Award from the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, along with recognition from the Foundation for Surgical Technology, the first Owens graduate to earn either honor. She's now an Inpatient Surgical Technologist at Ohio State University's Wexner Medical Center, ranked the second-best regional hospital in Ohio by U.S. News and World Report.

Wooten, a West Coast native who moved to Toledo in 2021, pivoted from the automotive industry into Owens' School of Nursing and Health Professions while working multiple jobs. She called Owens an "elite training ground for the future of healthcare."

"My education at Owens prepared me far beyond what I could have ever imagined," she said.

Scholarship support helped Wooten cover school supplies and relocation costs as she prepares for her next chapter at Ohio State this fall. "Without a doubt, Owens changed my life," she said.

Owens Hosts Acting U.S. Labor Secretary, U.S. Senator for Workforce Roundtable

Owens Community College welcomed Acting U.S. Secretary of Labor Keith Sonderling (right) and U.S. Senator Jon Husted on Aug. 3 as part of a northwest Ohio tour highlighting workforce development and advanced manufacturing. Coordinated by the Regional Growth Partnership, the visit brought together leaders in education, business and government for a roundtable at the Owens Dana Center for Advanced Manufacturing Training.



"Owens was honored to host this conversation and bring together a few of the region's leaders who share a common purpose," said Dr. Dione D. Somerville, president of Owens Community College, who emceed the discussion and is pictured standing between the federal leaders.

Roundtable participants included leaders from Whirlpool, First Solar, the University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University, among others.

"You cannot get those opportunities without community colleges like Owens teaching those opportunities," Sonderling said about training the workforce for increased manufacturing opportunities during a press conference following the event.

Owens trains more than 4,100 workers annually and supports 82 employer-sponsored apprenticeship programs across the region.

New Tactical Wall Trains Officers, EMS for Real-World Scenarios

Public Safety instructors at Owens Community College have a new tool for real-world training with the addition of a modular tactical range wall at the Center for Emergency Preparedness. The lightweight, tool-free system can be assembled into a variety of corridors and rooms, giving law enforcement, EMS and other students the chance to train in scenarios they may face on the job.



"One of the biggest things we focus on in all of public safety, especially policing, is scenario-based training, more reality-based," said Mark King, OPOTA manager at Owens. "This is not just a 'shoot, don't shoot' thing. You can run a lot of scenarios."

Beyond Owens' Criminal Justice and Emergency Services Technologies students, the wall is also used by Toledo Police, Toledo Fire and OPOTA. Instructors can control lighting, add

strobes and reposition squad cars to simulate nighttime calls, and rooms can be reconfigured in minutes to keep training unpredictable. "We want to expose as many of our public safety professionals to this environment," King said.



Shop Owens Online Store Expands Apparel Selections Through Jupmode Partnership

Owens Community College has partnered with Jupmode, a Toledo-based screen-printing and retail company, to manage and grow the college's online apparel store, ShopOwens.com. The partnership

launched July 1 with a refreshed shopping experience and new products, following a competitive bidding process for the two-year contract.

"We're creating a shopping experience that truly reflects the Owens community," said Tasha Hussain Black, vice president of Strategic Initiatives, Marketing and Communications at Owens. "We want everyone — students, alumni, employees and fans — to find something they love and wear their Owens pride."

Shoppers can expect trend-driven merchandise, more frequent product refreshes and a hybrid fulfillment model designed to improve product availability. The partnership also includes a revenue-sharing model that generates additional support for the college.

We're Gearing Up for Jill of All Trades!

Owens Community College will welcome more than 100 local high school students for Jill of All Trades on October 15, an inspiring day designed to introduce young people to exciting opportunities in STEM, skilled trades, apprenticeships and technical careers.

Now in its fourth year at Owens, this event opens doors, builds confidence and helps students see a future they may not have considered before. It also strengthens the skilled trades workforce in our local communities and industries.



Thanks to the Owens Foundation, one participating student will also receive a \$1,000 scholarship toward a future Owens education.

Your support can make a difference. Sponsorship opportunities are still available to make Jill of All Trades 2026 a success. Your partnership will help connect students with hands-on experiences, career possibilities, educational opportunities and the value of pursuing a career in the skilled trades.

Interested in becoming a sponsor? View the sponsorship packet or visit owens.edu/academics/stem/jill-trades for more information.

Support Owens Fundraiser at Raising Cane's!

Wednesday, September 30 | 4-10 p.m.

Raising Cane's
10576 Fremont Pike
Perrysburg, OH 43551

Mention the fundraiser at the restaurant

or apply code **RCFUND96**
to online or app orders at checkout
and Cane's will **donate 15%** of Net Sales
to Owens Community College Foundation.



Check out our upcoming events!
owens.edu/events



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