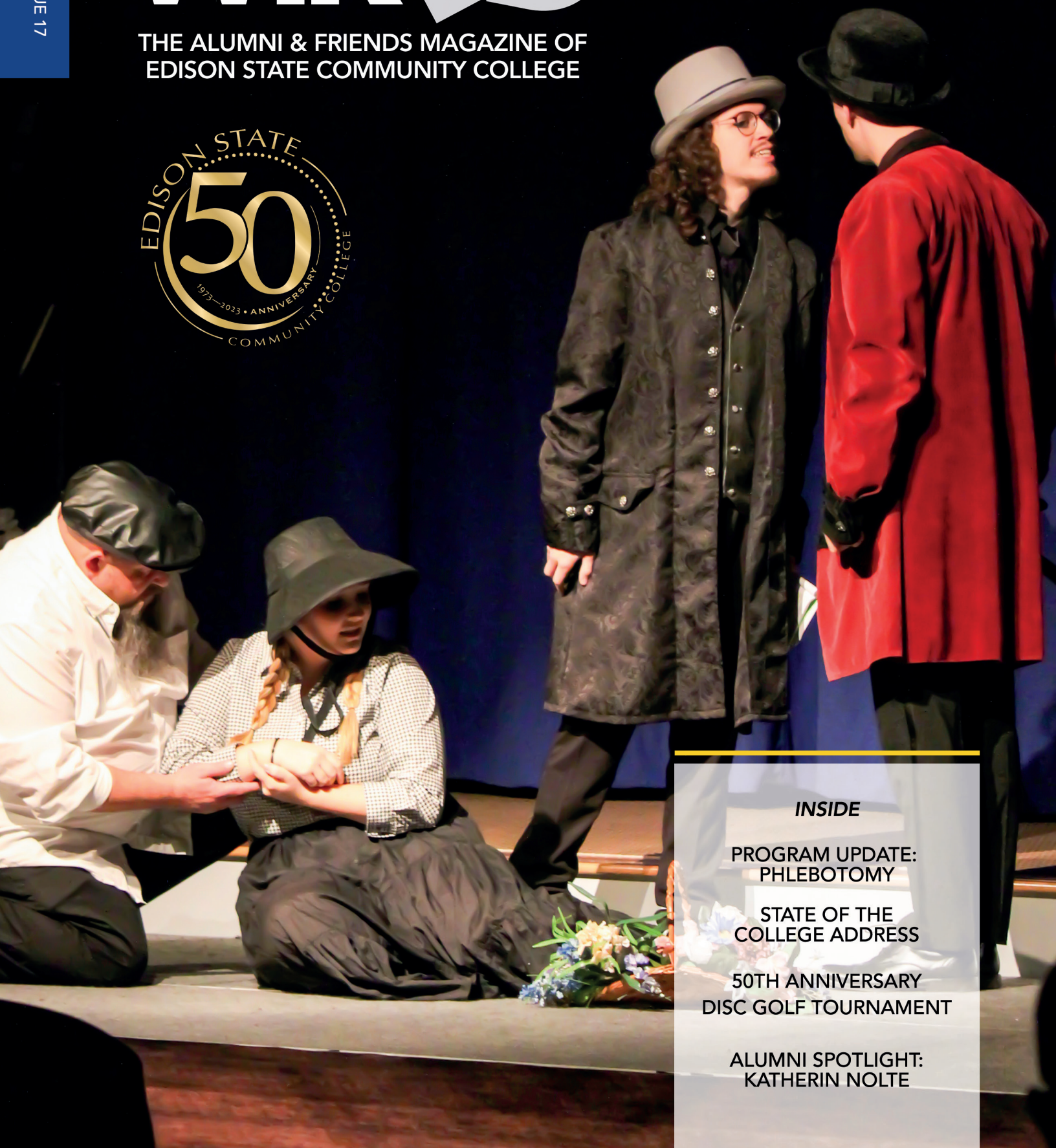


WIRED

THE ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE OF
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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PHLEBOTOMY**

**STATE OF THE
COLLEGE ADDRESS**

**50TH ANNIVERSARY
DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
KATHERIN NOLTE**

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A new illuminated Edison State Community College sign greets visitors of the Piqua Campus.

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On the Cover

The Edison Stagelight Players perform *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*.

Upcoming Events

January

- 10 Charger Country Alumni & Friends Night
- 15 Spring Semester Begins
- 15 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day—Campuses Closed

February

- 19 Open House

March

- 11-16 Spring Break—No Classes
- 21 Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle
- 25 Summer & Fall Registration Begins
- 26 Alumni Experience: Nancy Shuler

April

- 8 Eclipse Day—Campuses Closed

May

- 2 Alumni Experience: Lauren Kilburn
- 10 Commencement
- 11 50th Anniversary Final Celebration
- 22 Mosaic of Community Leadership Conference

Visit www.edisonohio.edu/events for event details.

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**CHARGER COUNTRY
ALUMNI & FRIENDS NIGHT**

JANUARY 10, 2024
WOMEN'S BASKETBALL GAME: 5:30PM
MEN'S BASKETBALL GAME: 7:30PM
CHARGER GYMNASIUM PAVILION SUITE BOX

*As part of the college's 50th anniversary, the Athletics Department
will recognize alumni basketball athletes during half-time of each game.*

**RSVP TO RECEIVE
FREE GAME ENTRY • FOOD & DRINKS • MERCHANDISE
MUST BE 21 TO ATTEND**



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EdisonState
**CHARGER
ATHLETICS
REVERSE RAFFLE**
03.21.2024
6:00 PM

WILL YOU BE THE LUCKY ONE
WHO TAKES HOME **\$10,000?**
Don't miss the **Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle**—
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THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024 | 6:00PM
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From the President



Chris Spradlin
President

Baseball great Jackie Robinson, who broke Major League Baseball's color barrier and had a hall-of-fame career, once said, "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." The same could certainly be said of the "life" of Edison State Community College, whose mission is to help students "realize their dreams." Impacting lives is the heart of Edison State, and we are proud to be able to uplift the communities we serve through higher education. This issue of WIRED explores a few of the many ways in which Edison State has a positive influence on our region.

One way to measure the impact of a college or university is to look at the economic activity it generates. Recently, the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE), of which Edison State is a member, conducted an economic impact study for each partner school. The results were astounding. According to the study "The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Edison State Community College, Fiscal Year 2019," SOCHE calculated the total economic impact of Edison State to be \$48.4 million while directly and indirectly supporting 644 jobs with an earnings impact of \$22.1 million on the local economy. These numbers demonstrate the College's far-reaching impact on our region's economic vitality, making our communities better places in which to live and work.

Much more important than dollars and cents, however, is the impact Edison State has on the lives of its students. There are countless examples of students who have come to the College with dreams of bettering their lives and then gone on to realize those dreams with the help of Edison State and through their own hard work and talent. Be sure to read this edition's article on Katherin Nolte, an Edison State alum who embodies this description. To say the College takes great pride in its alumni is an understatement. In fact, the College is defined by its alumni—its "product," so

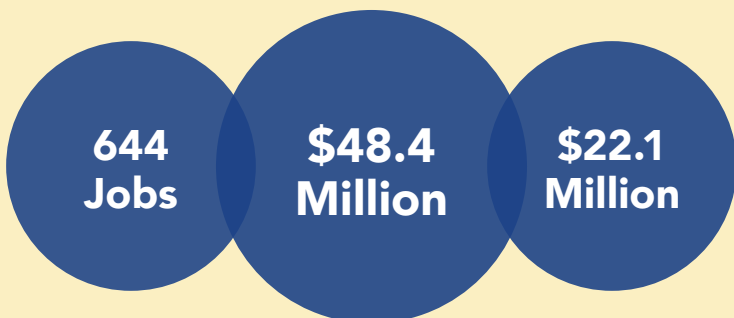
to speak—and that product has proven the excellence and value of Edison State for 50 years.

If the College's impact stopped with its alumni, then the Edison State experiment would without question be deemed a success, but the impact does not stop there; it is realized in its entirety only when one considers the lives that our alumni have touched. Again, there are many stories of Edison State graduates who have served in capacities that benefited their communities greatly, but a personal example may best illustrate this idea.



Excellence. Innovation. Moderniza

Economic Impact of Edison State Community College Fiscal Year 2019



644 Jobs
Jobs Supported
Edison State directly and indirectly supported **644 jobs**.

\$48.4 Million
Total Economic Impact
The total economic impact of Edison State in 2019 was **\$48.4 million**.

\$22.1 Million
Local Economic Earnings Impact
Edison State made an earnings impact of **\$22.1 million** on the local economy.

Source: "The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Edison State Community college, Fiscal Year 2019." Conducted by Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education. March 2023.

When my daughter was faced with an illness at a young age that required her to undergo countless blood tests over many months, the drawing of her blood became a much-dreaded experience for our whole family. It was only when we stumbled upon the services of a young phlebotomist who had graduated from Edison State that we finally found some comfort in the process. The young lady knew exactly how to minimize both the physical and emotional pain that my daughter endured with each blood draw, and soon, we were adjusting our schedules in whatever way was necessary to ensure that the phlebotomist from Edison State would

be the one to care for our daughter, who eventually returned to good health, thankfully. Through this experience, my family and I saw firsthand the powerful impact one dedicated individual can have—an individual who got her start at Edison State—and we are so glad she did! Check out the article on Edison State’s Phlebotomy program in this issue of WIRED for more information on a profession that can truly make all the difference in the world.

Chris Spradlin
Chris Spradlin, President

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ation. Efficiency. Focus.

Update on Phlebotomy

Phlebotomy



Keyana Turner practices drawing blood from classmate Abigail Adams.

TRAIN FOR A REWARDING CAREER IN HEALTH CARE

Those wishing to pursue a career working with patients in a health care setting can receive the training and skills needed to become a professional phlebotomist through Edison State Community College's Phlebotomy program. The Short-Term Technical Certificate can be completed in under a year and includes an internship experience.

The Phlebotomy program at Edison State is led by Vickie Kirk, Associate Professor of Allied Health and Director

of Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT), Phlebotomy, & Clinical Laboratory Assistant (CLA) and Hannah Shirk, Phlebotomy Coordinator and Instructor of Medical Technology/Clinical Laboratory Scientist. Shirk recently took over as the Phlebotomy Coordinator after the previous coordinator, Laura Wetterer, retired from the position. Wetterer continues to teach phlebotomy and medical laboratory technician courses at Edison State as an adjunct professor.

A 2018 graduate of Edison State's MLT program, Shirk has worked at St. Rita's Medical Center, New Vision Laboratories in Lima as a generalist

and microbiology specialist and at Dayton Children's Medical Center in microbiology. While a student at the College, Shirk worked in Human Resources as a student worker and completed her clinical rotations at St. Rita's Medical Center.

"I'm passionate about all areas of the laboratory, and I look forward to sharing that passion with my students," said Shirk.

Students in the Phlebotomy program are trained to collect blood and other biological samples using a variety of equipment and techniques. Students also gain other valuable skills necessary for success in the field, including



Phlebotomy Program Advisory Committee

- Diana Moeller, Phlebotomy Supervisor, Coordinator, Dayton Children's
- Tamara Wood, Phlebotomy Manager, Dayton Children's
- Gina Anders, Support Services Supervisor, Coordinator, CompuNet Clinical Labs/Premier Health
- Tabatha Harrah, Phlebotomy Manager, Patient Service Centers, CompuNet Clinical Labs/Premier Health
- Paula Allan, Non-Technical Manager, UVMC/Miami Valley North, CompuNet Clinical Labs/Premier Health
- Matthew Kiehl, Lab Manager, Wayne Health, CompuNet Clinical Labs/Premier Health
- Tom Geis, Lab Operations Manager, Joint Twp. District Memorial Hospital
- Michelle Homan, Lab Supervisor, Joint Twp. District Memorial Hospital
- Kerensa Rogers, Lab Director, Lima Memorial Hospital
- Catherine Will, Lab Director, Mercer County Community Hospital
- Jacqueline Faulding, Phlebotomy Supervisor, Reid Health
- Linda Rutherford, Lab Director, Reid Health
- Aaron Fraley, Lab Director, Springfield Regional Medical Center
- Elizabeth Heinz, Phlebotomy Supervisor, Springfield Regional Medical Center
- Jamie Bernard, Lab Director, Wilson Health
- Heather Kean, Phlebotomy Supervisor, Wilson Health

computer usage, medical terminology, and laboratory procedures. Once in the field, phlebotomists work directly with patients to obtain samples for analysis.

"Attending Edison State has been an amazing experience," said Tyler Rush, who is a current student in the College's MLT program after having completed the Phlebotomy certificate. "The knowledge I gained from the Phlebotomy program has helped me in the MLT program. I'm very thankful for Edison State and the opportunities it has given me."

The Phlebotomy program operates from Edison State's Piqua and Troy locations, accommodating 12 students at each campus each semester. The program is approved by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) and is undergoing reaccreditation, with a site inspection to occur in early 2024.

Clinical partners of the program include Children's Medical Center, Joint Township District Memorial Hospital, Kettering Health, Lima Memorial, Mercer Health Coldwater, Premier

Health/CompuNet Labs, Springfield Mercy Hospital, and Wilson Health. Students attend one of these clinical sites to complete their phlebotomy training, spending 115 hours under the guidance of phlebotomy preceptors advancing their phlebotomy skills and learning how to interact with patients and coworkers.

"Edison State's Phlebotomy program helped me become a knowledgeable phlebotomist and get a job in the field," alumna Alyssa Gambill said. "I had my internship through CompuNet Labs and

Their Experience



Alyssa L. Gambill
Class of '18

Edison State's Phlebotomy program helped me become a knowledgeable phlebotomist and get a job in the field. During class, we learned the significance of drawing blood and how to be a professional healthcare worker. I had my externship through CompuNet Clinical Laboratories and was hired shortly after I finished. The externship helped me gain hands-on experience and gave me an idea of what it was like to be a phlebotomist and the workload. From there, I took my career to the next level and became a medical laboratory tech with CompuNet in microbiology.



Kayla Dill
Class of '20

Edison State prepared me so well for a career in phlebotomy. The externship at the end of the program helped me feel confident when I started to apply for phlebotomy positions. I had a phlebotomy job lined up before I graduated from the program. Less than two months after graduation, I earned my certification from the American Society for Clinical Pathology. I started working as a phlebotomist three years later, and I love my career.



Tyler Rush
Current Student

Attending Edison State was, and has been, an amazing experience. Being a part of the Phlebotomy program has opened my eyes to the medical laboratory field. I am a laboratory assistant pursuing my degree as a medical laboratory technician. The knowledge I have gained from the Phlebotomy program has helped me through the Medical Laboratory Technician program at Edison State. I want to thank Laura Wetterer for all she has done to instill knowledge in her students. I am very thankful for Edison State and the opportunities it has given me.

Phlebotomy Update Cont.



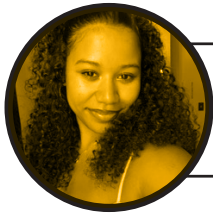
was hired on shortly after. From there, I took my career to the next level and became a medical laboratory technician with CompuNet in the microbiology department."

In the past three years, 100% of program graduates passed their capstone exam. In both 2021 and 2022, 100% of graduates received employment. While many students make successful careers as phlebotomists, others move forward in their education to earn a nursing

degree or an associate degree in medical laboratory.

Sophia Walker, another alumna, said, "I'm a first-year biology major at The Ohio State University on a pre-med track. The Phlebotomy program at Edison State allowed me to work a job where I get both inpatient and emergency room experience. Working as a phlebotomist is providing me with hands-on experience and knowledge that will help me on my pre-med track."

Experience



Lauren Walker
Class of '22

Edison State prepared me so that I was confident in my skills and knowledge when my internship started. I interned at Grandview Hospital in Dayton and gained so much hands-on experience. I was able to go into trauma situations and saw firsthand what it took to be a successful phlebotomist. I have been working as a phlebotomist at Upper Valley Hospital for almost a year, and I absolutely love my job. I can juggle working part-time as a phlebotomist while attending The Ohio State University–Lima to earn my Biology/Pre-Physician Assistant degree.



Sophia Walker
Class of '23

Edison State has helped prepare me for my future healthcare career and the continuation of my academic career as a first-year biology major at The Ohio State University on a pre-med track. I chose to be part of the Phlebotomy program in the second semester of my senior year. The program has allowed me to gain hands-on experience in inpatient and emergency room settings. I attended Edison State as a College Credit Plus student all four years of high school, and the knowledge I gained helped jumpstart my college career. Edison State has been one of my biggest academic supports, and I am forever grateful for them!

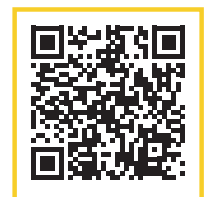


Anna Walker
Class of '18

Edison State prepared me to be a phlebotomist through hands-on in-class activities. I also felt very prepared to work as a phlebotomist at Dayton Children's Hospital where I was fortunate enough to intern. I believe my time as a phlebotomist paved my way to becoming a dentist. Not only did I enter dental school with patient knowledge, but I came in with a steady hand, and I believe this will serve me well in my future profession. I truly appreciate the opportunities I received through Edison State that helped get me to where I am today.

Edison State Strategic Plan

The 2023–2026 Strategic Plan provides tactical direction for Edison State and is guided by our vision, mission, values, and student learning outcomes. This plan is intended to be an integral part of Edison State's overall operations and daily initiatives. Outcomes presented here are the result of collaborative efforts from a host of stakeholders, including alumni, students, staff, faculty, and community and business leaders, from across our service region.



Scan or visit
www.edisonohio.edu/strategicplan
to view the Strategic Plan.

Throwback

From modest beginnings in 1973 in a rented facility, the College has grown in stages, enduring many changes. As Edison State celebrates its 50th anniversary, you're invited to take a quick trip down memory lane by browsing through past photographs.



Beyond the Campus

Edison State faculty members, staff members, and students often go above and beyond the call of duty to support organizations and individuals in our communities.

FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS



President Spradlin and the Edison State team engaged with alumni and community members during the Versailles versus New Bremen football game on September 8. Edison State visited four different school football competitions to connect with the community this past fall season.

DISTRIBUTING THANKSGIVING MEALS



The Edison State men's basketball team stepped up and gave back to the community this year, helping distribute over 130 meals to families thanks to the Troy Barber Shop's annual Turkey Drive.

SUNSHINE 5K RUN/WALK



The Edison State team laced up their sneakers to raise dollars for The Edison Foundation on Saturday, September 16, during the Darke County Foundation's annual SUNshine 5K run/walk. Funds raised from the event supported local nonprofit organizations by giving a portion of the registration back to the participating groups.

KIDS' DAY AT THE FAIR



Edison State is proud to sponsor local county fairs. During Kids' Day at the Miami County Fair, the Edison State marketing team handed out drawstring bags and t-shirts to participants.

HARTZELL PROPELLER



Members of the Edison State Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning team recently toured Hartzell Propeller with students enrolled in the CNC programming class as a part of a new partnership opportunity.

50th Anniversary Disc Golf Tournament



As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, Edison State Community College hosted a Bring-Your-Own-Partner (BYOP) Disc Golf Tournament on Saturday, September 30, at the Duke Foundation Disc Golf Course. Sixty-four players made up 32 teams that competed to win the inaugural tournament.

"It was incredible to see how well the event turned out," said Caleb Means, Tournament Chairperson and Enrollment Manager at Edison State. "We couldn't have asked for better weather."

Disc golfers competed in six separate amateur and professional divisions. The top payout of \$195 went to teammates Corey Cummins and Matt Hennline, \$192 to Andrew Harshbarger and Joseph Monnin, and \$133 to Adam Black and Adam Fair. Thirteen of the participating teams took home a total of \$1,300 in Hazy Bucks (Hazy Shade Disc Golf gift cards).

Means added, "Hazy Shade Disc Golf was an incredible partner this year. They donated discs for prizes, helped with player payouts, and even showed up as a vendor the day of the tournament."

Several side games added to the excitement of the tournament, including an Ace Pool. Players paid \$5 to join, and if they hit an ace, they won 50% of the

money collected. Ryan Miller hit an ace in the 2nd round, winning \$85.

All participants received Player's Packs, which included a commemorative Edison State 50th anniversary stamped mini disc, t-shirt, bag pin, and towel.

Established in 2009 through the generosity of the Duke Foundation, the Duke Foundation Disc Golf Course located at Edison State at Piqua is an 18-hole Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) disc golf course. The course underwent updates to increase its difficulty level for the tournament. Changes included three additional holes, out-of-bounds added to many holes, basket location changes between rounds, and an increase in hole difficulty level.

Proceeds from the event supported The Edison Foundation's general scholarship fund.

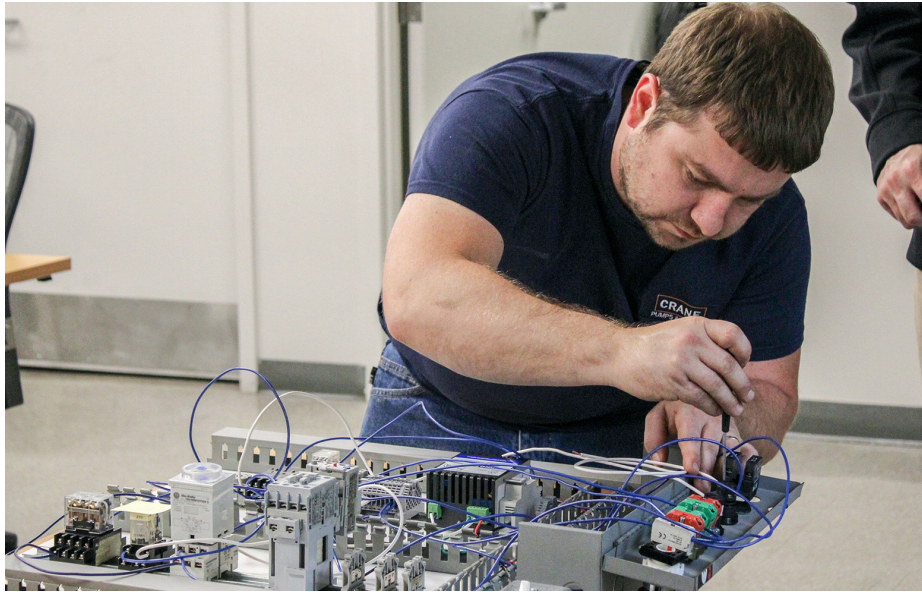
This year's event committee members included Chairperson Caleb Means, Edison State; Eric Ashton, Hartzell Propeller; Tom Burelison, Edison State; Naomi Cantrell, Edison State; Adam Fair, Stephen Renovations; Rick Hanes, Edison State; Harold Hitchcock, Edison State; and Nick Pierre, Jamieson & Yannucci Funeral Home. Event volunteers included Dr. Melissa Wertz, Edison State; and Rachel and Austin Carlisle, Edison State.



SAVE THE DATE

2nd Annual
BYOP Disc Golf Tournament
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024

On-Site Industrial Controls Course Held at Crane Pumps



this opportunity readily available to us due to time constraints at work and our home life. With this, we got hands-on experience and knowledge that will continue to help us in our daily projects at Crane. We could also show our instructor what it is we do, which helped him relate the topics to our current careers."

"The class has been helpful to our associates in the lab and service department by broadening their understanding of control panel and equipment diagrams and how to identify the components by their symbols to relate them to physical items and their functionality," added Scott Krites, Senior Application Engineer at Crane. "Taking the instructor's examples and classroom materials and utilizing those as design/build projects, or reading a schematic and creating the wiring circuit, is very helpful to the team as we assist others with troubleshooting and start-up of our products."

TechCred gives businesses the chance to upskill current or future employees to help them qualify for better jobs in today's tech-infused economy. With Edison State as a training partner, employers have access to numerous short-term, technology-focused, and industry-recognized credentials that qualify for funding by Ohio's TechCred program. Employers are eligible for \$2,000 per employee per application period.

For more information on how employers can use TechCred to host on-site Edison State classes, contact Brandi Olberding by calling 937.381.1533 or emailing bolberding@edisonohio.edu.

Visit www.cranepumps.com to learn more about Crane and current career opportunities with the company.

Edison State is a member of the West Central Ohio Manufacturers Partnership (WCOMP), an industry-led group working to meet the needs of local manufacturers.

TECHCRED FUNDS COURSE

The Office of Workforce Development and Work-Based Learning at Edison State Community College is committed to partnering with area employers to train and upskill their employees. In that effort, the department has collaborated with Crane Pumps in Piqua to deliver an on-site class.

The course, Industrial Controls, examines electrical and electronic devices used in industrial applications. A thorough treatment of sensors and their applications is presented. Students study relays, contactors, solenoids, and thyristor-based power interface devices. Standard wiring practices and troubleshooting skills are developed.

Crane Human Resources Manager Bobbie Cota said, "The top benefit of this partnership is being able to take classroom experience and apply it to our own products. The class has helped students identify electrical components and their functions and how the symbols relate to real-world components."

Crane has been approved for TechCred reimbursement funds for the Industrial Controls course, which allows Keith Barga, Industrial Technical Training Manager at Edison State, to teach the class on-site. By doing so, Barga can see what employees are doing in their day-to-day work and incorporate that into their coursework.

"On-the-job training combined with targeted formal training provides companies with uniquely qualified employees," said Barga.

Eight Crane employees completed the class from April to July, helping them develop the skills needed to progress in their careers. The course will also be assessed for college credit, and employees can get on a pathway to finish an Edison State two-year degree or stackable certificate leading to a degree.

"Bringing the Industrial Controls class in-house for us has been an amazing experience," said Kyle Frame, Lab Tech at Crane. "Had it not been for this partnership, we wouldn't have had

Athletics Update



VOLLEYBALL

In the seventh season under Head Coach Julia Brandewie's leadership, the Lady Chargers had an impressive run in the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) tournament, ultimately finishing as the D-II Great Lakes District A Runner-Up.

This season, the Lady Chargers returned to the court with a mix of four sophomores and five incoming freshmen, resulting in an impressive 26-8 overall record and a strong 9-3 conference record. A number of players received postseason honors.

Taylor Lessing, of Sidney, was named Setter of the Year for the second consecutive year and All-OCCAC First Team. Lessing, a 5-foot-4-inch

sophomore, put up a total of 477 assists, averaging an impressive 10.37 assists per set in conference play.

Brooklyn Bourne, of Celina, has been named All-OCCAC First Team. Bourne, a 5-foot-7-inch freshman outside hitter, earned a total of 188.5 points, 164 digs, 166 kills, and nine blocks in 12 conference games this season.

Joining Lessing and Bourne on the All-OCCAC First Team is Graceanne Slade of Covington. Slade, a 5-foot-11-inch middle hitter, earned a total of 149 points, 34 digs, 128 kills, and 21 blocks in conference play during her sophomore season.

Lessing, Bourne, and Slade were also named to the NJCAA Region XII District II All-Region Team.



BASKETBALL

In November, the Edison State Community College men's and women's basketball teams made their return to the court for the new season, and there's a lot of excitement surrounding their prospects.

For the Lady Chargers, Head Coach Tim McMahon is in his 10th season, bringing a wealth of coaching expertise that spans over three decades. Under McMahon's leadership, the team has achieved conference titles and earned Coach of the Year honors in both 2020 and 2022. Notably, the team advanced to the NJCAA National Championship tournament in 2022. The Lady Chargers have a mix of six returning sophomores from their 17-10 season and seven talented incoming freshmen. Coach McMahon has high hopes for the team, believing they will be highly competitive in the conference. Doug Martin, with over 30 years of coaching experience, joins McMahon as the assistant coach for the seventh season.

On the men's team, Head Coach Kyle Vanover leads the team for the sixth year, boasting over 20 years of coaching experience. Under his guidance, the Chargers have a combined record of 75-44 overall and 31-25 in the conference. The 2021-22 season was particularly successful, setting records with 25 wins, an 18-0 home record, and their best finish in school history. They were Region 12 Runner-up, and Vanover was named the OCCAC Co-Coach of the Year. The men's team, coming off a 13-16 season, is determined to return to their winning ways. They have been putting in extensive work both in the classroom and on the court, focusing on their length, athleticism, and experience to challenge their opponents. Coach Vanover places great emphasis on the team's experience as a key factor for success.

The teams are displaying strong chemistry early in the season and have promising seasons ahead. The coaches are optimistic about their competitiveness and success.



LEARN MORE

athletics.edisonohio.edu

Scholarship Celebration

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College recognized over 250 students during its annual scholarship celebration on Thursday, October 5, 2023, at the Piqua Campus. The event provides recipients with the opportunity to meet the patrons that made their scholarships available.

"I want to give a large shout-out to all our donors," said Dr. Rick Hanes, VP of Advancement, Strategic Planning, & Partnerships and Executive Director of The Edison Foundation. "Every person who has a scholarship with The Edison Foundation, either in memory of someone or as part of an organization, is supporting some type of scholarship for students at Edison State."

During his welcome, Edison State President Chris Spradlin said, "It's great to see this number of people here tonight to celebrate scholarships. This is one of the highlights of our academic year, sitting down with you and getting to know our students and donors."

He added, "It's a great thing, and it fits really well with this time at Edison State because we are celebrating our 50th anniversary at the College. I think we do have a bold legacy, and we do have a bright future. I want to say thank you to each one of you because you



make up that history and that future. You're the reason Edison State is such a wonderful institution."

Made possible by The Edison Foundation; Edison State; and various organizations, businesses, and foundations, recipients honored were awarded a total of nearly \$423,000 in academic and need-based scholarships. Scholarships awarded will aid students in their pursuit of higher education at Edison State.

The Edison State scholarship application for the 2024–2025

academic year is currently available. To be considered for one of over 55 available scholarships, the scholarship application, along with all appropriate documentation, must be submitted by March 1, 2024.

Since its inception in 1993, The Edison Foundation has awarded over \$2 million in student assistance through scholarships. Learn more and apply online at www.edisonohio.edu/ScholarshipApps.

Fall Mini-Grants

The Edison Foundation mini-grant program is designed for Edison State employees to utilize in advancing the college mission and strategic plan. The Edison Foundation announced a distribution of \$21,396 for fall 2023:

- \$1,000 to Amy Borgert–Privacy Window Clings
- \$850 to Beka Lindeman–ESCC PTK Honor Society Membership
- \$1,000 to Chris Freeze–Virtual Reality Patient for EMS Program
- \$1,000 to Chuck Whitney–Curtains
- \$1,000 to Chuck Whitney–Trees
- \$1,000 to Christina Raterman–50th Anniversary Alumni Experience Series
- \$1,000 to Dustin Wenrich–A Baker's Dozen: 13 Miami Valley Poets
- \$1,000 to Erynn Hanford–PTA Student Training Support
- \$1,000 to Ethan Tauscher–Student Information Displays
- \$1,000 to Jessica Edwards–Implementation Support of CETLI
- \$1,000 to Jim Bowell–Weather Station
- \$1,000 to Joe Ratermann–Veterans Day Celebration
- \$600 to Jordan Keith–Student Affairs Testing Room Modernization
- \$750 to Justin McCulla–Alumni Athletes Recognition
- \$1,000 to Laura Larger–CRJ Virtual Reality Training Enhancement
- \$1,000 to Loleta Collins–STEMM Expo
- \$1,000 to Marva Archibald–Diversity Training
- \$1,000 to Rachel Carlisle–Student Affairs Update
- \$550 to Rebecca Schinaman–Professional Skills/Dining Etiquette
- \$831 to Rick Heironimus–EMS Lab Enhancement
- \$895 to Ryan Lusk–Troy Laptop Rentals
- \$820 to Sandra Streitenberger–IMA Annual Student Event
- \$1,000 to Stacey Bean–Transfer Station
- \$1,000 to Tom Looker–EV Project

The 5th Annual Drive for Scholarships

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College enjoyed a great day of golf at the scenic Troy Country Club during its 5th Annual Drive for Scholarships event on July 28. The event welcomed 88 participating golfers, as well as volunteers and sponsors, and raised \$14,273 for scholarships. This brings the total funds raised through the annual event to \$69,814, equating to 69 \$1,000 scholarships over the past five years.

All proceeds directly benefit the student scholarship program, which provides Edison State students with the opportunity to attain higher education. Recipients of the scholarship can pursue their educational and career goals with less financial worry.

The TDW Investments team placed first in the scramble, consisting of the following golfers: Tyler White, Brandon Flexenhar, Damen Patel, and Codie Deaton. Placing second was the Waibel Energy Systems team, consisting of Gordon Fairchild, Scott Minnig, Mike Minnig, and Pat McGue. Tying for third place was the Baird Funeral Home team, consisting of Allan Ganley, Bill Groff, Ryan Groff, and Bill Rozell, and the Kathy Lukey/Western Ohio Graphics team, consisting of Ethan Lukey, Bryce Lukey, Tony Cockerham, and Dave Bellish.

In addition to 18 holes of golf, the scramble included lunch, a putting contest, a skins game, and raffle prizes.

This year's event committee members included Co-Chairs Gavin Glasscoe, Littman Thomas Agency, Inc., and Matt Verhotz, Park National Bank; Gordon Fairchild, Waibel Energy Systems; Matt Kiehl, Wayne HealthCare; Zach Kiehl, Sentinel; Bruce McKenzie, Edison State; Christina Raterman, Edison State; Chris Spradlin, Edison State; Sharon Thomas, Edison State; and Dr. Rick Hanes, Edison State.

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1st Place Team: TDW Investments



2nd Place Team: Waibel Energy Systems



3rd Place Team: Baird Funeral Home



3rd Place Team: Kathy Lukey/
Western Ohio Graphics

SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual
Drive for Scholarships
JULY 26, 2024



HOW TO PURSUE FINANCIAL FREEDOM

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Your time at Edison State is proof—you know how to take action, pursue freedom, and seek impact in your career. Can you say the same about your finances? In July of this year, The Edison Foundation board voted unanimously for **Credent Wealth Management** to become the foundation’s portfolio managers and are thrilled for this great partnership.

It’s easy to get sidetracked by culture, media, and life’s circumstances, but don’t wait for an unforeseen turning point before you explore your options, clarify your aims, or establish accountability. Start now in pursuit of financial freedom.

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Credent Wealth Management can be a steady ally, offering advice and services that prioritize you. They’ll learn about your individual situation and offer technical expertise and consultative relationships to support your aspirations, alert you to blind spots, and ensure you receive true high-quality service.

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Credent Wealth Management would love to walk with you. Their financial mission is to guide clients throughout life’s most important financial events with service and expertise above and beyond client expectations. Unlike some financial advisors, Credent is transparent and solely motivated to help you win.

Whether you want to magnify your charitable giving or secure your retirement, Credent believes in serving others selflessly. As a Registered Investment Advisor (RIA), they’re legally obligated to act in the client’s best interest. In addition, they’re a fee-only fiduciary, meaning they charge for their expertise, but are not in the business of making commissions off products you may (or may not) need.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD PARTNER?

Credent believes financial freedom through goals, plans, and partnerships can promote wise decision-making amidst opportunities and uncertainties. Your time at Edison State was just one important event. As you well know, the future holds more—family growth, promotions, opportunities to give back, retirement, and more. Your finances are integral throughout this journey. Fortunately, knowing your direction, accepting the importance of financial freedom, and trusting a partner can keep you on track and flexible for many years.

With The Edison Foundation’s partnership with **Credent Wealth Management**, there is excitement to see what the future holds as the College continues to grow in meeting the needs of businesses and industries throughout our region.

Ultimately, choose an above-board financial partner that values your financial freedom, considers your goals and plans, and puts you first.



Alumni Spotlight

Katherin Nolte: Published Author

The year 2023 marked an exciting chapter for Katherin Nolte as her first novel, *Back to the Bright Before*, was published by Penguin Random House. Her love of reading began early in life.



In second grade, her teacher asked students to record how many books they read for the year. She read constantly, with great fervor, and her mother remarked how often her nose was caught up in a book. That second-

grade year, Nolte cited reading over 380 books. This passion never wavered, and Nolte ultimately registered for her first creative writing course at Edison State Community College.

Nolte grew up in the very small town of Laura, Ohio, and attended Milton-Union High School. She decided to take advantage of the dual enrollment program and began taking classes at Edison State her junior year. Nolte enjoyed the challenge of the college-level courses compared to the high school academic world and enrolled full time at Edison State as a senior.

Professor Cathryn Essinger taught Nolte's creative writing course that year. Nolte was the only high school student in the class, but she felt like she belonged there, and her writing was taken seriously. Nolte recalls Professor Essinger "made me feel like I had talent, was encouraging, and gave good feedback." She and her classmates wrote stories at home and returned them to share. As intimidating as it might have felt at the time, it was all good preparation for her future work in the field.

Nolte continued her studies at Edison State and graduated with an Associate of Applied Business in marketing in the fall of 1997. "It felt like a good fit. I wanted to do something creative. Typography, photography, design—it made for a creative outlet," Nolte says about her program at the time.

After graduating, she enrolled at Wright State University to pursue an English degree and landed a job as a graphic assistant at the university's Office of Communication & Marketing. During Nolte's interview, she presented a beautifully filled portfolio, which had been crafted while she was a student at Edison State. It was complete with sample brochures and marketing flyers she had made. She explains, "Our instructor had us professionally mount the pieces. I had those ready and available."

Nolte knew she wanted to pursue a master's degree in writing and was thrilled when she was accepted into the Iowa Writers' Workshop at the University of Iowa. She shares, "U.S. News & World Report ranked it #1 in the country for writing—it was a dream." Indeed, it is an extremely prestigious and competitive graduate program. She received her MFA through that two-year residency and was even designated a Truman Capote Fellow.

The goal was always to write a novel. Her husband was heavily involved in theater, and after her program ended in Iowa, they moved to Texas for four years so he could pursue work there. Nolte took a position in fundraising and development at Midland College, a community college. She knew the value of community colleges from her own experience and embraced the marketing skills she learned at Edison State as well. At home, she was still pursuing writing. After drafting 400 pages of a novel, she decided to scrap that project and try again with a clean slate.

Life led Nolte and her husband back to Iowa, and she worked part time in development for the Iowa City Public Library. She then enjoyed embarking on the adventure of motherhood. One night, her husband was out of town when her youngest fell and cut herself on a potted plant. She left the house with four kids in tow to the ER. They waited for hours to be seen for stitches. There was a bookshelf in the waiting room, and she began to read



Katherin Nolte

Photograph by Michael Kreiser

to her children Kate DiCamillo's *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.

An incredible realization came to her that evening. She had always been so focused on writing general adult fiction, but here was a magnificent children's book she and her children greatly enjoyed. Nolte felt she could create that same kind of joy for others. Nolte shares, "My favorite thing to do is read to my kids." And now, as a published children's author, she gets to create new worlds for them as well.

Released in May 2023, *Back to the Bright Before* is officially Nolte's first published novel and is full of wonder and excitement. Her second book, *The Wonderful Wishes of B*, will be published in June 2024. It took time for her to get to this point. She shares it is key to have "perseverance and not give up."



Dreaming up characters and imagined situations is fun for her, but she has fostered her work ethic and discipline in writing to be where she is today.

Nolte is grateful for her time at Edison State and remembers with fondness that it was the place where her creative writing journey began. Other favorite memories include being part of the honors society and acting in the play, *The Threepenny Opera*, directed by Professor TR Ruddick.

"I encourage people to take advantage of the great resource that is there," Nolte says about Edison State. "It's affordable and the instructors wanted me to succeed."

The Office of Alumni Engagement congratulates Nolte on her achievements and looks forward to her next chapter.

Alumni Highlights



RAY BURTON

Ray (Howard) Burton, from Bradford, Ohio, was one of the first students enrolled at Edison State. Many of his early classes were held in the JVS building, as the campus had yet to be built. He was heavily involved in campus activities, being one of the founding members and president of the former alumni association. In 1985, Burton earned a certificate in Industrial Management. However, Edison State was far from being the start of his career. Burton enlisted in the military at the young age of 14. Classes that he took at Edison State allowed him to be promoted to ranks he would not have otherwise qualified for. In 1995, he received an “Outstanding Edison State Community College Alumni” award. Burton believes in the importance of remembering each institution that helps you reach your final goal and values all the resources Edison State has to offer.



JUSTIN HUNTINGTON

Justin Huntington graduated from Edison State in 2003 after earning his Associate of Science. Huntington began taking classes at the College when he was in high school, and before he even graduated, he was able to earn his associate degree. After Edison State, he attended Miami University and then The Ohio State University for medical school. By beginning his educational journey at Edison State, he received a great advantage. He says, “Edison State prepared me to be a college student way beyond what high school would have. The transition from high school to college was much easier. I graduated from Miami summa cum laude. Studying was easy, and I found classes similar between Edison State and Miami. I was able to take one year off of my degree at Miami, and that resulted in significant financial savings.” He works as a pediatric surgeon at Akron Children’s Hospital and enjoys spending time with his family, fly fishing, and traveling.



OLIVIA NEWMAN

Olivia Newman graduated from Edison State in 2018 after completing her Associate of Science. She felt a sense of belonging at Edison State when she began taking College Credit Plus classes as a sophomore and graduated high school while also completing her associate degree. She shares, “Although I enjoyed all of my professors, Ms. Beth Bengough was one of my favorites. She taught my child psychology class and sparked my interest in working with children in a mental health realm.” She chose to continue her education at Wright State and earned her Master’s in Education in School Counseling. She says, “The psychology retreat was my favorite memory as an Edison State student. I got to connect with other students also interested in psychology, and it gave me a great outlet to connect with people.” Newman now enjoys working as a high school counselor at the Miami Valley Career Technology Center.



AMY THOBE

Amy Thobe graduated from Edison State in 2023 after completing the Phlebotomy program. Thobe initially worked in the manufacturing industry from the age of 16 until she turned 42 and decided to explore a new career path. She had felt drawn to the world of health care; however, she feared it was too late to get started. “At 42, I didn’t think it was possible. I contacted an advisor and explained my feelings. With confidence, she helped me start my journey in phlebotomy!” Thobe currently holds a position at CompuNet Laboratories, where she obtained an internship through the program at Edison State. Thobe says, “At Edison State, dreams are never too small or big to accomplish. You are never too old or young to achieve them. I am living my dream, have found my purpose in life, and will make a difference in the world!”

We would love to hear what you’ve been doing since you attended Edison State. Share your story by completing the form found at www.edisonohio.edu/stayconnected.

Spradlin Reflects on Success and Looks Toward the Future



2023 STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS

Edison State Community College President Chris Spradlin provided the sixth annual State of the College address on Wednesday, October 4, to update the community with an overview of the accomplishments, strategic initiatives, and vision for the future of Edison State.

"This is an exciting time for Edison State because it is our 50th anniversary," Spradlin said. "Back in May of 1973, the College was born, and

then in the fall of 1973, we opened our doors to students for the first time."

Spradlin highlighted the history of Edison State, from the College's beginnings in the Spring Street School and the construction of the main campus in Piqua to expanding with new campus locations to serve Darke, Preble, Miami, and Shelby counties. The College is approved to offer associate degrees, one-year certificates, and short-term certificates.

"We're always thinking about the next step for students," Spradlin continued. "We love our communities, and the communities have been very

supportive of Edison State over the years."

This dedication to students and the communities it serves has allowed the College to continue experiencing growth through the years. Spradlin shared that enrollment for the fall 2023 semester was very strong. "We have 4,500 students enrolled in 37,000 credit hours. That's up from 34% in the fall semester of 2007. We've had tremendous growth over this time, which is a real credit to our faculty and staff and everyone supporting the College."

Several programs have also

College Address

experienced growth, with the College's Banking, Criminal Justice, Medical Assisting, Medical Lab Technician, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Social Services programs seeing 27% to 77% increases in enrollment for the fall 2023 semester.

Another key to Edison State's success is its partnerships with other institutions.

"We're very proud of our Pathway Portal partnership with Franklin University," said Spradlin. "The Pathway Portal is an electronic system that allows students to have one experience with two institutions. They start with Edison State and choose to enter this Pathway Portal, and immediately, it starts tracking their progress electronically through their associate degree at Edison State and then on to their bachelor's degree with Franklin. It's a great system built by Franklin, and we've enjoyed their partnership."

The College has also partnered with Upper Valley Career Center to host the career center's Teacher Academy and First Responder programs on Edison State's campus.

Spradlin credits Edison State's strong student retention to its dedication to meeting student needs, both in and out of the classroom. Ways the College meets student needs beyond the classroom include its athletics programs, Charger Station food pantries, and Guided Pathways to Student Success.

Edison State will have its 10-year reaccreditation site visit in February of 2024. "The Higher Learning Commission provides our general accreditation, and they're the ones who give us access to federal financial aid, so this is big," Spradlin said. "A lot of folks have been working already to prepare for this visit."

Looking toward the future, the College is completing several

renovations and expansions. The criminal justice classroom is being expanded, the engineering lab will be modernized, the Library and Internet Café were recently renovated, new locker rooms will be added to the west side of the gym, and an addition will be made to the nursing wing.

Edison State will launch a Respiratory Care program and a bachelor's degree in nursing, both of which are anticipated to begin in the fall of 2024. These programs are being developed to meet the need for respiratory care technicians and nurses in the workforce.

Spradlin was joined by Dr. Andy Runyan, Edison State Dean of Professional & Technical Programs, to discuss the bachelor's degree in nursing.

"A lot of local organizations were asking us to develop this program," Runyan said. "There's a lot of demand and opportunities for students to go on and get the bachelor's degree in nursing. We surveyed both past and current students and found that if we put it together, they would take it at Edison State. They want something local, close to home, an institution they're comfortable with, and a good price they can afford."

When asked how he sees the addition of a bachelor's degree impacting the College, Spradlin said, "I think it changes the culture of the institution. When we offer that bachelor's degree and that first graduate comes forward, we're no longer just a two-year institution—we're also a bachelor's degree-granting institution. That's a big change for any college, and I can even see it possibly opening pathways to other bachelor's degrees."

To watch the State of the College address or download the brochure, visit www.edisonohio.edu/sotc.



Ready to Earn Your Bachelor's Degree?

PATHWAY PORTAL CREATES A SEAMLESS EXPERIENCE

Developed collaboratively by **Franklin University** and **Edison State Community College**, the Pathway Portal is a transfer tool that helps students make the most of their time and tuition dollars by providing insight on how each class moves them closer to their goals. However, just because you've already earned your Edison State degree, doesn't mean you can't reap the benefits of the Pathway Portal.

Edison State graduate Riko Brock opted into the Portal when he enrolled in bridge courses toward his bachelor's degree at Franklin.

"I was able to choose my degree path from the get-go and automatically transferred my Edison State credits using the Portal. Not only did I get an estimated percentage of completion for my Franklin bachelor's degree, everything was clearly laid out in front of me, making it a smooth transition between Edison and Franklin."



PICK UP WHERE YOU LEFT OFF

If you've been putting off earning your bachelor's degree because you don't want to deal with the hassle of the application and transfer processes, the Pathway Portal removes those barriers for you.

Opt in to the Pathway Portal to:

- See how your completed associate degree courses also satisfy Franklin's bachelor's degree requirements. Choose from 40 online programs in business, healthcare, technology, nursing or education.
- Get course suggestions to maximize your transfer credit
- Take advantage of a seamless application process to finish the remainder of your bachelor's degree credits at Franklin
- Reduce the cost of your bachelor's degree credits with a special \$298 per credit Pathway Portal tuition rate – for eligible students

The Pathway Portal makes it even easier to take advantage of the longstanding 3+1 partnership between Edison State and Franklin University. The partnership helps you maximize your associate degree and transfer up to 94 credits, including 30 hours of bridge courses at the Edison State tuition rate, toward your bachelor's degree at Franklin.

It's a bit nerve-racking when transferring to a different university, and it can seem overwhelming. However, the Portal made the application and transfer process simple and self-explanatory.

– Riko Brock
Edison State Graduate | Franklin University Student



Interested in getting back on the path to your bachelor's degree?

edisonohio.edu/portal



In Class & On the Job

By Cindy Frantz, Recruiting and Community Relations for Scott Family McDonald's and Adjunct Instructor at Edison State



Edison State Community College has always been very near and dear to my heart. As an older student pursuing an associate degree, I was intimidated and very scared. With the help of all the great instructors at Edison State, it did not take me long to settle in, spread my wings, and fly.

I will always remember my first class at Edison State: Business Communications with the late (and great) John Andreoni. He is the reason I pursued my MBA and the reason I teach today. I always teased him that if I were going to walk out of one class, it would have been his. He looked like a grouch. Fast forward to 2019—he attended my undergraduate and graduate degree ceremonies at Bluffton University. Next to my family, he was my greatest cheerleader. He always told me

I needed to teach. If only he could see me now.

All of these experiences make me the instructor I am today. Even though I was a later-in-life student, things have changed so much. My job as a Community Relations/Recruitment Manager at Scott Family McDonald's (SFM) and the classes I teach as an adjunct business instructor at Edison State marry well. The demographics of students and the individuals we hire align with each other. At SFM, we hire at 14; I have had 14-year-olds in my classes at Edison State. Understanding what makes all demographics tick (from Baby Boomers to Gen Z) is something I have to stay ahead of to make sure our marketing and messages appeal to all generations.

My employees at SFM truly help me understand how to reach individuals in the classroom. Gen Z lives in a digital world (hence the reason my online courses always fill up). Making Zoom a priority for those that need help, or just need to chat, is something I stress all the time. When I teach on campus, depending on the demographics of students, I always try to use YouTube and bring in outside business speakers to talk about what they do to help entice students into a career field.

I network a lot, and I cannot stress enough to my students how important this is.

When I have taught on campus, we have taken "field trips" to our Piqua SFM store. There we learned about technology, marketing, and financial statements. My General Manager and Director of Operations generally talked to the students about McDonald's training, operations, and leadership. While I think their favorite part is eating for free, students have told me they will never forget taking my class because of this experience.

My job at SFM is many things, but the one thing I take most seriously is our community involvement. At Edison State, I have collaborated with Brandi Olberding, Assistant Dean of Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning, about the Apprenticeship Ohio program and with Justin McCulla, Athletic Director, to speak with student-athletes about our \$2,500 tuition reimbursement program (for only 15 hours of work per week). I volunteer on campus as much as I can. I am proud to call both SFM and Edison State home. It is my job as an instructor and leader to raise up the next generation and foster growth within my own generation of students, like Edison State did for me.

Edison Stagelight Players Perform

The Edison Stagelight Players presented the Noah Smith adaptation of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde*, directed by Emily Beisner and Chris Garner. Performances were held in Edison State's Robinson Theater.

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde is a classic Gothic story that follows lawyer Gabriel John Utterson as he investigates strange happenings between his friend, Dr. Henry Jekyll, and the criminal Edward Hyde.

"I enjoyed getting back into the director's seat and working with everyone to bring this production to life," said Beisner. "Almost everyone is familiar with the story of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, so picking the play wasn't too hard. Our production was based on the original novel; however, there are a few differences that kept the audience engaged and the production flowing. I couldn't be more grateful for my cast and crew. They were the backbone of this production."



Holiday Evening



EVENT SUPPORTS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Edison Foundation held its 26th annual Holiday Evening at Edison State Community College on Wednesday, November 29, 2023. Guests enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, the company of others, and great music from regional performing artists.

Proceeds from the event help The Edison Foundation assist Edison State in meeting its educational and community service goals by providing resources to advance student success. This is accomplished through scholarships,

student emergency assistance, employee mini-grants, and capital improvement.

Organized as an indoor music festival with three distinct stages, the 2023 Holiday Evening featured simultaneous performances from Honey and Blue, Quintessential Winds, and Cory Breth. Guests were invited to walk about various areas on campus to enjoy the performances, which included a variety of original songs, covers, and classic holiday tunes. The Charger Music Society, comprised of Edison State faculty, students, and community members, performed before the event.

"The Edison Foundation always enjoys kicking off the holiday season in the northern Miami Valley with Holiday Evening at Edison State, and we're grateful for another successful year," said Dr. Rick Hanes, VP of Advancement, Strategic Planning, & Partnerships and Executive Director of The Edison Foundation.

Holiday Evening at Edison State includes past performances by Manhattan Transfer, Doc Severinsen, Matt Belsante, Harry Connick, Jr., The Texas Tenors, John Tesh, Simply Three, and more.

To learn more about the event, visit www.edisonohio.edu/HE.

Alumni & Friends Announcements

Update

Aaron Bruss, Miami County resident, was sworn-in by the Miami County Park District as Park Ranger in May 2023. Bruss graduated from Edison State's Ohio Peace Officer Academy.

Retirement

Steve Whiteman, Professor of Psychology, retired in July.

In Memoriam

Joshua L. Scully passed away on August 29, 2023. Josh served Edison State for seven-and-a-half years as an Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

Marriage



Marissa and Emmanuel Hill were married on April 7, 2023, at the Miami County Courthouse in Troy, OH. They enjoyed a trip to Disney World for their honeymoon. Marissa is a 2019 Edison State graduate and current employee.

Do you have an announcement to share?

Let us know about a birth or adoption, award recognition, job change, obituary, wedding or special anniversary, and more by making a submission at www.edisonohio.edu/announcements.

Upcoming Accreditation Visit

Edison State Community College is committed to providing a high-quality education at a reasonable cost to the communities we serve. Part of ensuring this commitment to excellence is our institutional accreditation. What does this mean? The U.S. Department of Education states, "The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality."

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) is Edison State's accreditor. Accreditation is a peer review process in which the College is evaluated based on criteria. The five criteria are:

1. Mission
2. Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct
3. Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support

4. Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement
5. Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness

A Task Force was brought together to construct an assurance argument that addresses each of the five criteria. This assurance argument is a comprehensive document that is a review and analysis of the College's strengths and weaknesses. The assurance argument includes over 750 pieces of evidence to support the information presented.

In addition to reviewing the assurance argument, an HLC peer review team will conduct a campus visit. The campus visit is an opportunity for the peer review team to verify the information presented in the assurance argument and meet with the College community. An HLC peer review team will be on campus February 26–27, 2024.

ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE DONATION



YES! I want to support Edison State students!

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- Engineering Endowed Scholarship Fund
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- Freed Bollenbacher Scholarship Fund
- The Edison Foundation General Scholarship Fund
- Floyd & Grace Simmering Hanes Mem. Scholar. Fund
- Holiday Evening Annual Scholarship Fund
- Illuminate the Future Scholarship Fund
- Len and Doreen Larson Fund
- Miami County Scholarship Fund
- Miami Valley Wounded Veterans Fund
- William McCulloch Memorial Scholarship Fund
- Vince and Bonnie Miller Scholarship Fund
- Myers/Vaccaro Scholarship Fund
- William H. Pitsenbarger Scholarship Fund
- Preble County Youth Foundation Endowment
- Preble County Youth Foundation Fund
- Protect Our Wtr.-Ways Great Miami River Stewardship Program Support Fund
- Raval Family Scholarship Fund
- Resource Development Fund
- Robinson Endowed Scholarship Fund
- Shelby County Scholarship Fund
- Student Emergency Assistance Fund
- Tri County Scholarship Fund
- Vaccaro-Myers Scholarship in Fine Arts/Theater
- Veterinary Technology Support Fund
- Vince Miller Family Scholarship
- Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning Fund
- Kenneth Yowell President Emeritus Scholarship Fund

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Walmart Grant Supports Food Pantry



The Edison Foundation recently received a \$4,200 local community grant from Walmart on behalf of Edison State Community College. The funds will be used for the Charger Station food pantry located at the Piqua Campus. Nathan Kelly, Store Manager of the Piqua Walmart, visited campus on Thursday, August 17, during which he presented a grant check and toured the Charger Station.

"We're pleased to have partnered with Edison State on a recent project to focus on food insecurity, donating \$4,200 to help provide food for students who need that extra boost," Kelly said. "We're all aware of the expenses attached to higher education with housing, books, tuition, and more. This will help stock the local campus food pantry for this very purpose."

He added, "Through collaboration and philanthropic funding, we're working to strengthen the charitable needs in Piqua and create an emotional belonging that extends from the store shopping experience into our local community, helping families where we can."

Walmart's local community grants are awarded through an open application process. Edison State received funding for the Charger Station food pantry as part of Walmart and Sam's Club facilities' initiative to provide hunger relief and promote healthy eating. These funds are provided to organizations that offer charitable meals or snacks for individuals in their local service area.

Launched in 2019, the Charger Station food pantries, overseen by the Student Needs Team, are available at all campus locations for registered Edison State students. The pantries include much-needed items, including snacks, toiletries, baby items, school supplies, and local resource information.

"We're aligned with the very mission statement of Edison State in providing support to better serve students to complete their educational goals and realize their dreams," said Kelly.

Gas Cards Awarded to Students

The offices of Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning and Career Services at Edison State Community College launched a new initiative to award a \$50 gas card to students completing work-based learning, such as internships, co-ops, and clinical experiences, during the spring semester of 2023. The "Gas Card Program" was available through grants from The Edison Foundation and Ohio Means Internships & Co-Ops (OMIC).

Through the Gas Card Program, each student was eligible for a \$50 gas card to assist with travel expenses associated with their internship/clinical. Approximately 30 students participated

in this first-ever Edison State outreach.

Makenna Borchers, a nursing major from Russia, explained, "The Gas Card Program assisted me with my clinical as it helped with travels to and from the site. This lightened a small burden of the financial side of college expenses, allowing me to focus more on my clinical experience and how it benefited me. I am very grateful to have been awarded a gas card, and I believe it will positively impact the experience that students have in workforce development and work-based learning programs. Thank you, Edison State, for providing this to the students!"

50th Anniversary Alumni Events



BOLD LEGACY. BRIGHT FUTURE.

The 50th anniversary of Edison State is a momentous occasion. Thanks to the unwavering commitment of our alumni, who have supported the vision of *Bold Legacy. Bright Future.* brilliantly, we have achieved significant progress over the years. The Office of Alumni Engagement is recognizing and honoring the valuable contributions of our alumni with special events held throughout the year.

JACOB OGLESBEE



During an Alumni Experience Series event, Jacob Oglesbee spoke on the topic of information technology and engaged guests with a hands-on robotics activity. Oglesbee graduated from Edison State in 2019 with two associate degrees in computer information technology—network information technology—network computer management. He now works at Copeland in Sidney as a Developer and System Architect for Product Lifecycle Management applications.

SHANE MEEKER



The second Alumni Experience Series event featured alumnus Shane Meeker. Meeker engaged the audience with a hands-on storytelling workshop that demonstrated how to apply his tools to real-life scenarios to prepare stories for interviews, speeches, presentations, and more. Meeker attended Edison State in the early 1990s, where he loved his classes, made lifelong friends, and met his wife, before transferring to The Ohio State University and earning a bachelor's degree in industrial design/product design. He's a 28-year veteran at the Procter & Gamble Company, where he is the P&G Corporate Storyteller & Company Historian. His book, *StoryMythos: A Movie Guide to Better Business Stories*, is available on Amazon and was rated a #1 New Release Bestseller in Business Writing and Skills.

CHARGER COUNTRY NIGHT



Alumna volleyball players and coaches, who competed in years ranging from 2006 to 2019, were recognized for their contributions and dedication to the program. Alumna honored included:

- Noel Blumenschein
- Austine Brown
- Jenny Caverlee
- Allie Hafer
- Nicki Heilman
- Janell Helman
- Miranda Hickey
- Camille Odle
- Jayme McCullough
- Mindy McCutchins, Player and Assistant Coach
- Jessica O'Donnell
- Whitney Pleiman
- Gina Selby
- Carrie Snyder-Dearth, Head Coach

CHARGER COUNTRY SHOWCASE AT DAY AIR BALLPARK



The Charger softball and baseball teams recently took the field at Day Air Ballpark for a special 50th Anniversary Charger Country Showcase. The day



included free admission, inflatables, giant tailgate games, Dragons mascots, and more.



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