

SPRING 2021 | ISSUE 11

# WIRED

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS NEWSLETTER

## *INSIDE*

UPDATE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

SCHOLARSHIP  
RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

DRIVE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

# From the President

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Edison State Community College is ready to “charge” up the economy. Over the past 18 months, Edison State has enrolled more students and is now graduating more students at our highest levels in a decade. As a team, Edison State doubled our efforts to reach out to students and families, get students enrolled and ensure that they succeed.

Our college grew over the past year.

- We posted a 10% overall increase in enrollment.
- We experienced unexpected large enrollments in our new programs, including Veterinary Assistant, Interactive Media Specialist, Social Media Certification, and Cybersecurity Specialist.

Along with new programs, Edison State also expanded existing programs and partnerships. We doubled our enrollment in the Agri-Business program. We welcomed a partnership with the Central State Extension Office at our Eaton campus, and we added new high school partners to our College Credit Plus network in Preble County and across our region.

Last year we began a groundbreaking partnership with local fire departments that included an apprentice experience in EMT and Paramedic training. The response from our region for this training partnership was so strong and so immediate that it justified adding a full-time faculty position at the college.

In 2019, Edison State and Hobart Service inked an agreement to facilitate the receipt of academic credit at Edison State for technical training conducted by Hobart Service. In December 2020, Kevin Schieferstein, a Hobart Service employee from Laurel, Delaware, was the first to receive an Associate of Technical Studies (ATS) degree through this partnership.

On February 1, 2021, Edison State and Purdue University Fort Wayne signed a transfer agreement allowing students from Edison State to transfer credits earned from an Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree into a Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree. The BAS degree can be completed entirely online.

# ent Larson

AN UPDATE FROM PRESIDENT LARSON



As the Ohio economy starts to recover, we have Edison State graduates ready to go in all areas of business and industry.

- We have healthcare professionals graduating at full capacity.
- We have apprentice employees ready to take on Journeymen level of skill and leadership in regional businesses that include banking, insurance, manufacturing, STNA, accounting, and engineering.
- We have police academy graduates and fully enrolled police academy cohorts providing local police departments with officers skilled in communication, safety, and technology.
- Through our renowned College Credit Plus program, we have students moving on to 4-year colleges with a head start on credits, funding, and with a solid foundation for success.

This coming academic year continues to create pipelines into new careers for students of all ages.

- We received accreditation for a pilot training program. Look for information on registration and

locations for flight hours. The employment outlook for private and commercial pilots is increasing.

- The college has designed several degree programs that are on the “Accelerated Fast Track” for completion by adult students. Courses are scheduled one night per week, students are eligible for credit for experience, prior learning and transfer courses.
- 2021 high school graduates from any Edison State CCP partner high school are eligible for the 100% tuition waiver. Students need to complete a FAFSA and may need to plan for some costs including books and course fees.

As alumni and friends of Edison State, you should take pride in the success of your college in getting students into college, supporting students to completion of their program, and launching into high quality jobs in Piqua, Greenville, Eaton, and Troy.

Best Wishes,

Doreen Larson, PhD

@Larson\_Doreen



## State of the College

President Larson provided the fifth annual State of the College address online Wednesday, May 5, to update the community with an overview of the accomplishments, strategic initiatives, and vision for the future of Edison State. President Larson shared the successes of Edison State, including the College’s 10% enrollment increase, response to the pandemic, and student satisfaction survey results. To watch the State of the College address or to download the accompanying brochure, visit [www.edisonohio.edu/sotc](http://www.edisonohio.edu/sotc)

# Update on Agriculture



Jim Hale, Edison State Alumnus

## BUILDING ON A RICH TRADITION OF AGRICULTURE

With agriculture being the leading contributor to the State's economy, it is clear why Edison State Community College jumped at the opportunity to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agriculture. Offered exclusively at Edison State at Greenville beginning in 2016, the program that started with just two students has grown to include 30 students taking courses in Greenville and Eaton. Today, Edison State has expanded its agriculture offerings to include an Agribusiness Certificate, a Farm Management Certificate, and most recently, an Associate of Applied Science degree in Agriculture

Maintenance, which consists of a blend of agriculture and engineering education.

The Agriculture Program is led by Director Brad Lentz with support from adjunct instructors, David Coons, Jen Knick, and Seth Swallow. Lentz and his team have helped the College establish partnerships with 40 local high schools and develop transfer agreements with Central State University, Wright State University-Lake Campus, and Wilmington College. Several students have also successfully transferred to four-year colleges such as Morehead State and The Ohio State University.



## Agriculture Program Advisory Committee

One significant benefit to a student enrolled in Edison State’s agriculture program is the opportunity to connect with industry leaders in the classroom. Lentz actively recruits local agriculture business representatives to discuss employment opportunities or share their expertise on numerous agriculture subjects. These industry partnerships have led to approximately 20 internships from the Edison State service area. Co-Alliance (formerly Harvestland Co-Op), Darke Soil and Water Conservation District, and Buckeye Ag Testing, to name a few, have provided students with invaluable hands-on training in internship programs.

“One of the things we’re most proud of is the quantity and quality of guest speakers and tours we offer to our students. Throughout the course of a year, our students have the opportunity to learn from over 70 different people and companies that represent the agricultural industry. These connections have enabled our students to secure numerous internship and employment opportunities, as well as helped them to begin to develop a network for their future endeavors,” said Lentz.

As an industry that continues to experience growth, the number of Edison State agriculture graduates will play a pivotal role in continuing on a rich agriculture tradition in Ohio. 100-percent of Edison State agriculture graduates have already secured employment in the industry, transferred to a four-year

- Michelle Brunson, Executive Director, Upper Valley Career Center
- Sam Custer, Ag & Natural Resource Educator, OSU Extension–Darke Co.
- John Durham, General Manager, Rogers Grain, Inc.
- Jared Coppess, District Administrator, Darke Soil & Water Agency
- Seth Swallow, Regional Extension Associate, Central State University
- Josh Overholser, Manager, Superior Implement & Supply Co.
- Brian Lentz, Processing Automation Controller, Dannon Yogurt
- Ron Barga, II, Partner/CFO, Premier Crop Ins., Loan Off., Greenville Nat. Bank
- Janelle Brinksneider, Executive Account Rep., The Andersons Ethanol
- Randy Barga, Partner, Barga/Judge/JRB Farms
- Carmen Hartzell, Ag Education Teacher, Mississinawa Valley High School
- Jason Manning, Sow Production Manager, Countryview Family Farms
- Jennifer Knick, Edison State Agriculture Adjunct Instructor

college, or returned to the family farm or business to continue the legacy.

Jim Hale, an Edison State agriculture alumnus, has even started a new legacy. Hale has formed a partnership with S & D Smith Dairy in Yorkshire to produce natural cheeses sold locally under the name, “Smith & Hale Hearty Cheese.”

“Obtaining my agriculture degree from Edison State had everything to do with my current career as co-owner of Smith & Hale Hearty Cheese. As a city boy moved to the country, the program

taught me all facets of agriculture, from finance and land conservation to animal husbandry and identifying a specific bovine breed. The two things from my experience at Edison State that really helped me were the site tours of area agriculture operations and in-class speaker presentations from area farmers and agribusinesses. These experiences demonstrated to our classes that there are excellent careers in agriculture, and it is also how I met my current business partner,” said Hale.

# Update on Social Services



Jenette Stark, Edison State Alumna

## PREPARING STUDENTS FOR A DEMANDING BUT REWARDING CAREER

A demanding yet rewarding career field, social services exists to help people of all ages deal with various challenges, traumas, concerns, and dilemmas. Graduates of this program have proven they have the desire to help others while demonstrating the inner strength to manage time, documentation, and stress effectively. Graduates who are qualified may also seek application with the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board to become a state registered Social Work Assistant.

Thanks to the dedication of Program Coordinator and Assistant Professor Caryn M. Scott, LPCC, LSW, along with adjunct instructors, Marcia Youtz and Dr. Jacquelyn James, students are well prepared through both classroom learning and on-site internship training developed over years of community support and connections.

“We offer a strong internship program that requires our students to complete two semesters of internship experience within a 16-week semester and completing a total of 210 hours

# Services

AN UPDATE FROM THE SOCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
AT EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Social Services Program Advisory Committee

- Dr. Jacquelyn James, Adjunct Instructor, Edison State
- Beth Bengough, Associate Professor of Psychology, Edison State
- Vickie Martin, Clinical Director, Darke County Recovery Services
- Douglas Metcalf, Executive Director, SafeHaven, Inc.
- Bruce Jamison, Director of Public Safety and Security, Edison State

of service per internship. Students are placed within consenting public or private agencies or programs that provide social services to its clientele to promote a varied experience for the students," said Scott.

Graduates of the program are also finding success within the field, securing employment at over 50 different employers throughout the program's history. Additionally, over the past eight years, between 50-70% of students have been hired into their internship placement upon graduating.

SafeHaven, Inc., a Piqua, Ohio-based counseling service provider, has been a partner with Edison State for over sixteen years, providing internship opportunities for students in the Social Services program. Douglas Metcalf, Executive Director, shares his experience in having Edison State students intern with the organization.

"SafeHaven has had a wonderful and mutually beneficial experience with the Edison State Social Services program for all of my sixteen years as

Executive Director at SafeHaven. There has rarely been a single semester we did not have at least one student from the program, and many semesters we have had assistance from multiple students. The benefit of having all those hours for our mission is the extra skilled people to connect and build rapport with our clients, and that has been a huge help because so much of our focus is on group work."

Edison State Social Services interns have also helped SafeHaven through projects like fundraisers, grant preparation, cooking, helping facilitate men's and women's groups and various other classes, performing minor maintenance tasks, and even filling in on days when staff were ill. Each student shadows and works with site assistants each day, participating in all-day activities and building rapport for their first two weeks, and then really expand upon a hands-on experience.

"I'm grateful for our relationship with Edison State and specifically with Caryn Scott and the Social Services program as a whole," said Metcalf.

Empowering Darke County Youth, a tutoring and support program for Darke County's young people, has also benefited from Edison State Social Services students. Edison State alumna Jenette Stark currently serves as a program coordinator for Empowering Darke County Youth. Stark has also had the opportunity to put her tutoring skills to work as an embedded tutor at Edison State.

"After graduating from the Social Services program at Edison State, not only did I have the confidence to work toward obtaining my bachelor's degree, but the experiences made me want to earn a bachelor's degree," said Stark.

Stark stated in her experience with the program, "there are no blinders in these classes; the instructors will tell you all of this field's good parts and the bad. Social work isn't just a job of taking kids away or working in rehab facilities; for me, it was a job teaching kids with learning disabilities."

# Their Experience



**Wyatt King**  
Class of '19

*The Edison State Agriculture program provided opportunities to make connections with others who are actively working in the ag business industry. The knowledge my educators, guest speakers, and the ag related tours provided me with insight on how to properly create a business plan. Because of this, I can market a product and be a good steward of the land in my own business endeavors.*



**Kayla Seman**  
Class of '19

*Edison State Ag has built me into a strong agricultural woman and has opened doors to my dreams of being able to reach goals and interests that I never saw myself going towards. Now I am at Wright State Lake Campus getting my bachelor's degree and looking forward to working with the USDA after my last semester.*



**Andrew Rowland**  
Class of '20

*Mr. Lentz and the other ag teachers did a great job in teaching us relative information about the industry and different avenues that you can take and still be a part of agriculture. The ag program gave me the tools to make educated business decisions as well as broaden my knowledge on the ins and outs of every day work that it takes to run a farm operation or other ag related business.*

## EDISON STATE IS IN THE EXPRESS LANE TO SUCCESS

Edison State has been recognized at the state and national level for our embedded advisor model and customized course equivalency approach that takes the College Credit Plus (CCP) partnership to a whole new level.

Through Edison State's premier CCP program, students are advancing to 4-year colleges with a head start on credits, funding, and a solid foundation for success.

CCP has grown from 1,400 students in 2015 to almost 3,000 students this past fall and spring.

Over 400 students took advantage of the 100% Tuition Waiver to stay on track for college completion during the uncertainty of COVID.

Based on the 2021 Spring Student Satisfaction Survey:

- **96%** of Edison State students measured the college with an overall positive rating.
- **80%** of Edison State Students would recommend the college to a friend or family member.

In the most recent report from the Ohio Department of Higher Education:

- Edison State exceeded the state average in student course completions, successful credit hour milestones, and program completion in a timely manner.
- Edison State leads the state among all other community colleges in successful student transfers to four-year universities.



# Experience



**Katie Jackson**  
Class of '17

*I loved that my instructors took the time to get to know me, and how I learn best. I was offered every opportunity to gain additional help if I needed it and was encouraged that I could always reach out to my instructors for anything. Not only was Edison State affordable, and comfortably close to home, but they genuinely provided me with a great education and experience.*



**Samuel Nation**  
Class of '20

*I am proud to say that Edison State's Social Services program has prepared me for the challenges I face in my professional life. I have learned crucial skills to working with a multitude of different individuals, mainly those with developmental disabilities. I'm hoping to continue my education to get a bachelor's degree in the next couple of years.*



**Jenette Stark**  
Class of '20

*In this program, I have changed my mind 100 times about the job I saw in my future. I felt indecisive, but really, this Social Services program at Edison State gave me the confidence to perform 100 jobs. The Social Services program taught me that I can enjoy my work and that there are many jobs for my talents.*

## WHAT OUR STUDENTS HAD TO SAY...

*Both the bookstore and campus security have been very helpful and efficient in my experience. Also, the current staff for both are AWESOME!*

*I was in person the first semester and online the second. It was a learning process but overall has been handled very well.*

*Webflex is very nice for a student who is balancing work and school.*

*Last year during quarantine, I started feeling super uneasy about how I wanted to finish Edison State while in high school. My advisor quickly worked up two career paths... she is a great asset to your staff!*

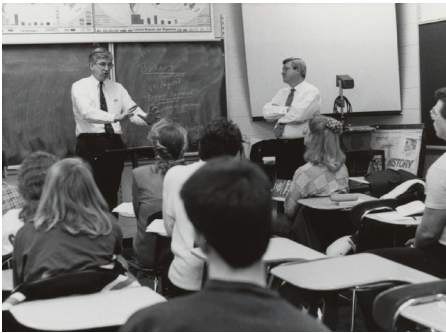
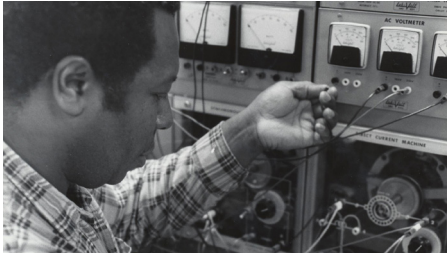
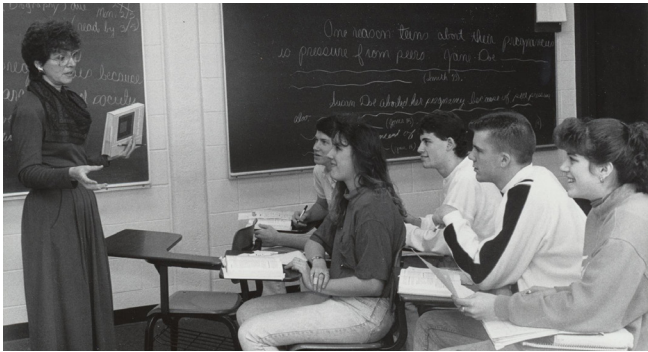
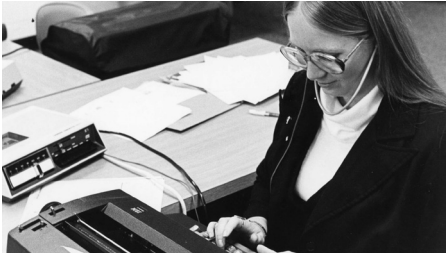
*My online courses have always been very structured and easy to understand. Online class instructors are always available to answer any questions. That is very helpful to us!*

*My advisor has been awesome, and my online teachers have also been amazing. Being out of school since 2008, I was a bit nervous to try online learning, but everything has been great!*

*I enjoy all of my classes and can seek help when I need to.*

# Throwback

From modest beginnings in 1973 in a rented facility, the College has grown in stages, enduring many changes. As Edison State approaches its 50th anniversary, we invite you to take a quick trip down memory lane as you browse through these photographs from the past.



# Beyond the Classroom

Going above and beyond the call of duty, Edison State students, faculty, and staff are often found supporting organizations and individuals in our area communities.

## CAMPUS CLEAN-UP DAY

The Edison State team put on their gloves and got to work on Friday, May 14th, during Campus Clean-Up Day. Nearly 30 volunteers contributed to the event by pulling weeds, trimming bushes, and planting flowers to enhance the natural beauty of the campus. Volunteers included everyone from staff and faculty to students and community members.

"Your contributions remind me why I'm so proud to work at Edison State. I work with a lot of amazing people who are willing to go out of their way, to go above and beyond, and to help out when they can," said Tom Burelison, Supervisor of Maintenance and Facilities. "What took six hours would have taken our maintenance crew two weeks to complete. What an improvement you have made to the campus."



Volunteers participate in Campus Clean-Up Day. L to R: David Lewis, Vince Miller, Jessica Chambers, Lisa Hall, Amy Borgert, Vanessa Clark, Jessica Bornhorst, and August Evans

## ACCOUNTING STUDENTS PREPARE TAXES

Students in Edison State's accounting program prepared taxes as part of a service-learning project at the Partners In Hope site location for the community-at-large, in partnership with the Dayton Coalition Program (VITA/EITC).

VITA's origins date back to 1969 with a precursor program at California State University, Northridge. Such programs have since spread to thousands of locations across the country, with IRS-certified volunteers providing free help with tax returns to low- and moderate-income taxpayers, as well as people with disabilities, the elderly, and limited English speakers.

"Students are getting real-world training, the IRS provides plenty of support, and community members receive a valuable service free of charge," said Sandra Streitenberger, Associate Professor of Accounting and Business.



Chintan Thakkar, Edison State Alumna

## STUDENTS AND ALUMNI ADMINISTER VACCINES

Edison State nursing students had the opportunity to gain hands-on experience administering vaccines. Participating students included, Faith Apple of Russia, Nathan Alspaugh of Tipp City, Robin Blackstone of Troy, Paige Graham of Sidney, Megan Leckey of Springfield, Jena Mangan of Versailles, Alexis Monnin of Russia, Nicole Murphy of Troy, Alysha Oda

of Lewisburg, Kelsey Ruschau of Versailles, Maggie Wilcoxon of Bellefontaine, Olivia Wright of Greenville, and Kelsey Wyatt of Troy.

"This clinic was an exciting opportunity because, in nursing school, we learn so many new things," said nursing student Paige Graham. "With COVID, we are learning and experiencing history along with medical professionals all over the world. There is no better education than experience, and Edison State offered that to me."

A number of Edison State alumni also contributed to the day's events. One graduate, Chintan Thakkar, who is now a pharmacist, administered vaccines as part of the Medical Reserve Corps volunteer group. Another Edison State alumna giving shots was Melette Bailey, R.N. at Miami County Public Health.

"Miami County Public Health only has so many nurses on staff, so, having the volunteers and students here today is just invaluable to this process," said Bailey.

# Employees Honored for Years of Service



Kim Kiehl, Edison State Alumna

Edison State Community College recognized twenty-five employees for a combined total of 270 years of service in their careers during the 42nd annual employee recognition celebration on Friday, April 16, 2021.

The event was held virtually and took participants down a trip to memory lane, allowing them to “guess the graduate” and reflect on Edison State memories in a yearbook-style format. Elizabeth Dubois, Coordinator of Employee Recruitment, Training, and, Development, hosted the event, and Dr. Doreen Larson, President, who was also honored for her years of service, provided remarks. In place of a catered in-person dinner, honorees were presented with gift cards to use at the Upper Valley Career Center’s Cornerstone @ 8811 restaurant.

“Liz Dubois and Andrea Francis teamed up to demonstrate the beauty and fun possible within a virtual event.

The “yearbook” video is truly a keepsake that reflects the Edison State culture of using technology to share the individuality of our employees,” said Edison State President Dr. Doreen Larson.

Edison State recognized the following employees for reaching significant milestones in their careers at Edison State: Thirty Years: Kim Kiehl; Twenty-Five Years: Helen Willcox; Twenty Years: Steven Sykes and Eileen Thompson; Fifteen Years: Stacey Bean, Paul Heintz, Steven Marlowe; Ten Years: David Barth, Amy Borgert, Amanda Bylczynski, Terry Calvert, Greg Clem, Amy Crow, Heather Lanham, and Jeffrey Schwilk; Five Years: Chad Beanblossom, Rachel Carlisle, Jason Evans, Lisa Hoops, Doreen Larson, James Lehmkuhl, Kelly Pryfogle, Jared Shimp, Holly Short, and Sandra Streitenberger.

During the celebration, Dubois announced that portraits of former faculty members Cathy Essenger and William “Larry” Rich would be added to Edison State’s Wall of Memories.

Essenger, who is now retired, spent over 25-years as an English professor at Edison State, was selected for her unwavering devotion to students. Essenger’s commitment and passion for instructing, coupled with her writing expertise, is what made her special. Essenger developed many courses for the College, including Creative Writing, Helping Writers Write, Fiction Writing, Poetry Workshops, and Creative Non-

Fiction Memoir. Most notably, Essenger is a poet who has published, and continues to publish, original poetry and poetry books. During her time at Edison State, she freely and willingly wrote poems for special occasions and did poetry readings for faculty, staff, students, and community members. “Cathy was a teacher whose class students remembered. She had wisdom to share and did it with humility and kindness,” said a nominator.

Rich, an adjunct foreign language and humanities instructor at Edison State for more than two decades, was selected for his dedication to instructing at Edison State up until his passing in 2020. Rich made it a priority to hold himself accountable to ensure students received the best education available, purchasing numerous movies for students and showing appreciation to support staff by buying them lunch once a week. When Larry could no longer drive, he arranged for a friend or family member to drive him to and from classes to continue to do the job he loved: teaching. “Larry was a quiet, consistent presence at the college. He cared deeply for his students. He was part of the fabric of Edison State,” said a nominator.

The Wall of Memories, established in 1998 by members of the Academic Forum, is dedicated to former Edison State employees who significantly impacted the lives of students, faculty, and staff who will forever be recognized as part of the college community.

## Students Named to All-Ohio Academic Team

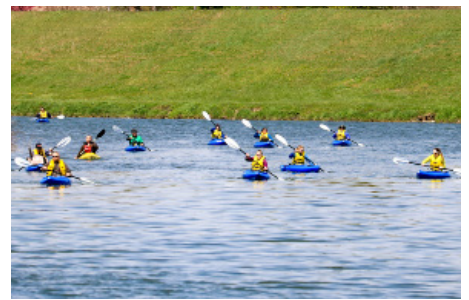
Edison State Community College students Sarah Gilliam of Troy, Sophia Markley of Troy, Devan O’Connell of Sidney, and Jayla Pothast of Versailles have been honored with a place on the All-Ohio Community College Academic Team for 2021. These four Edison State students join 73 students from Ohio’s community college system honored

with scholarships for their excellence in academics, leadership, and community service.

College faculty, staff, and leaders nominated these top-performing students. Students recognized as first-team honorees will receive \$1,000 scholarships, while second-team members earn \$500 scholarships,

and third-team members receive \$250 scholarships to assist students transferring on to four-year universities to complete their bachelor’s degree requirements. The All-Ohio Academic Team also includes high-achieving students who are planning to move directly into the workforce.

# Adventurers Kayak Down the Great Miami River



## “FLOAT, LEARN, AND FEAST”

Students, faculty, staff, and friends of Edison State came together for an educational kayak trip down the Great Miami River during the fourth annual “Float, Learn, and Feast” event on Friday, April 23, 2021.

Organized by the Edison State Student Senate, the event brought together nearly 20 participants who embarked on the Miami River at Roadside Park to experience beautiful weather and wildlife along the way.

Jeff Lange, Founder of Protecting Our Water-Ways (POWW), has joined the Edison State group to travel down the Miami River each year.

“POWW is a nonprofit organization that I started back in 2004. We are responsible for cleaning up the Great Miami River, starting in Sidney at the Big Four Bridge all the way to Great Miami River Trail near Bridge Street.

In our 17-year history, we’ve removed 194,500 pounds of trash in our sixteen miles of adopted river,” said Lange.

“As POWW got more involved and started getting more and more trash out of the river, Piqua and other communities started seeing what a beautiful natural resource the river is. The Miami Conservancy District has always been a sponsor of activities on the river. These activities on the river are now flourishing because people realize it is beneficial to have your people in your towns enjoy your natural amenity and this river is a beautiful natural amenity. More people are kayaking, canoeing, stand-up boarding, fishing, wading, and even tubing in it. We’re happy to be here today and to have this group have fun in it.”

Participants boarded Edison State kayaks, which were purchased using funds raised during Down a River,

Down a Beer Festival (DARDAB), and in partnership with the City of Piqua’s River Stewards Program and POWW.

“DARDAB is a festival for drinking really good beers and ales from around the world. Proceeds from the event go back to the community, specifically to higher education institutions. Edison State Community College and Upper Valley Career Center have been recipients of kayaks and equipment through DARDAB,” added Lange.

During the float, Lange provided information on water cleanliness. Wildlife and environmental characteristics were also observed and discussed. The float ended at the Great Miami River Trail near Bridge Street. Participants were treated to a boxed lunch from Susie’s Big Dipper and listened to a presentation from Dr. Sarah Hippensteel Hall, Manager of Watershed Partnerships for the Miami Conservancy District.

# Committed to Service



As a student at Northmont High School in Clayton, Ohio, Caitlin Donnelly was proud to tell her friends that her mother, Kimberly Donnelly, was active in the U.S. Air Force in intelligence operations. She reports that she wasn't sure what that meant, although she knew top security clearance was required and that her mother was working with computers and "secret squirrely stuff."

So as a freshman in high school, Caitlin enrolled in Navy ROTC, and in December 2011 of her junior year, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. After high school graduation, she was off for basic training at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio and then to specialized training as a medical technician at Fort Sam Houston.

As an M.T., she is EMT certified, and her scope of work is that of an LPN, for which she is now state-certified. Currently, a Technical Sergeant, and one semester away from completing the registered nursing (R.N.) program at Edison State Community College, she plans to complete the BSN

program online at Ohio University, after which she will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant.

In July of 2018, Caitlin was deployed for six months to Qatar at the Al Udeid Air Base. Although she had been told what to expect, she wasn't prepared. She says, "Being there was like being in a sauna. There was desert. Nothing to see, and humid at times. I walked one and one-half miles to work, and we worked 60 hours a week, five 12-hour shifts."

"A part of ASTS of Wright Patterson Air Force Base, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, and mental health professionals were there to treat civilian employees of the governments, contractors, and the military. We triaged and sent the most critically injured to Germany immediately. Our patients came from Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and Jordan."

In addition to her college classes, she is currently working as an LPN at Bethany Village. She looks forward to her preceptorship at Edison State in the fall, where she will work with a



nurse in clinical settings for 96 hours during five weeks.

From June 6 to June 20 of this year, Caitlin is with her Wright Patterson Reserve Unit at Warren County, Georgia, where the poverty rate exceeds 25%, to deliver health care to the uninsured.

When asked why she is good at her job, Caitlin's response is quick and heartfelt: "I'm patient. I pay close attention to the doctors' orders, and I'm not afraid to ask. I have integrity, and I'm always looking out for the best interests of my patients."

She continues, "I'm especially interested in the geriatric population. When my grandparents get to the place where they need me, I want to use my skills and experience to provide them with care and love."

Pro-military and committed to service, Caitlin's career goal is to work at the Dayton Veterans Administration.

*Caitlin and her mother, Kimberly Donnelly, will be among Miami Valley of Ohio female veterans featured at the Miami Valley Veterans Museum in Troy, Ohio, in late summer. Area persons who know women, living or deceased, who should be in this special display, funded by the Edison Foundation, should call Edison State faculty members Carl DeSantis at 937.698.9182 or Vivian Blevins at 937.778.3815.*

# 100% Tuition Waiver

Edison State Community College is providing a 100-percent tuition waiver to 2021 graduating high school seniors as a way of assisting the community during challenging times.

Edison State President Doreen Larson envisions the positive impact this waiver will make in students' lives. "This waiver is an all-out effort to minimize the disruption of COVID-19 on a student's college career. Our goal is to remove any hesitation for high school graduates from immediately continuing into a college program. This is considered an investment in our families, our community, and the future of our state."

The 100-percent tuition waiver is available to all graduating high school seniors in the Edison State service area including, Darke, Miami, Preble, and Shelby counties, or those who attend a high school that has a College Credit Plus partnership (CCP) with Edison State. Homeschool students living within Edison State's service area are also eligible. The 100-percent tuition waiver applies to classes taken in-person or online.

Edison State offers career pathways in Business, Engineering and Manufacturing, Health Sciences, Information Technology, and Social and Public Services that are designed to

help graduates enter the workforce. In addition, Edison State's associate of arts or science university transfer degrees provide students with the opportunity to transfer seamlessly to four-year universities nationwide.

The 100-percent tuition waiver covers the cost of tuition, which includes instructional fees, general fee, technology fee, activity fee, and career services fees. Students are responsible for lab fees, security fees, books, or additional fees.

## MORE INFORMATION

[www.edisonohio.edu/waiver](http://www.edisonohio.edu/waiver)  
or call 937.778.8600

# Workforce Updates

The Center for Workforce Development and Education continues to deliver customized training to the region's top employers. The Center has worked with over 350 employees from over 30 companies.

Partner companies include Crane Pumps and Systems, Emerson, Orbis, KTH, and Weidmann Electrical, to name a few.

The Center has continued to expand upon its partnership with Midmark Corporation. Since 2011, more than 70 Midmark employees have completed the Flex-Tech CNC Machine Operator training from Edison State. The course combines online learning and hands-on labs, which accelerates the training period, accomplishing in six months what usually takes employees over a year to complete.

Recently, Crane Pumps & Systems and Hartzell Propeller have also introduced the program to newly hired associates. In addition, each student earns seven academic credits upon completion of the course, which can be applied toward a certificate or degree in the area of advanced manufacturing.

Work-based learning also remains on the forefront for the Center for Workforce Development and Education. The Center has successfully connected 317 students with 165 employers. Interns and apprentices have gained hands-on experience at places like Advanced Composites, Cargill, Crane Pumps and Systems, Emerson, Hobart Brothers, Kettering Health, Rittal, Speedway, LLC, Stillwater Technologies, and Whirlpool.



John Hittepole observes Kevin L. during a customized machining course for Weidmann Electrical Technology Inc., Urbana.



Brandi Olberding, Assistant Dean of Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning, along with her team, are now located in West Hall Room 114.



# Trustee Fletcher Honored During Pinning Ceremony

Today's nurses continue to face unprecedented challenges, making the nursing pinning ceremony held on Thursday, May 13, so special for the twenty-four Edison State Community College students who have chosen to enter the career field.

The pinning ceremony is a time-honored tradition in which the graduate nurse is presented to family and friends as a professional who is about to practice nursing. The graduate is usually "pinned" by the faculty members who have worked with them throughout their studies. Each school has a unique pin, which serves as a symbol of the successful completion of a rigorous curriculum, which prepares its graduates to administer to the sick and injured and promote health through the practice of nursing.

In addition to receiving traditional nursing pins, Edison State honored the life of Marvella Fletcher by awarding each

of the graduates a unique COVID angel pin. Fletcher was appointed to the Board of Trustees for Edison State Community College in 2013, most recently serving as Vice Chairman, and was to be the incoming Chairman. Spending the last ten years of her career as a Vice President of Finance at Wayne Hospital, Fletcher will be remembered by the college community for her unwavering devotion to the health sciences programs at Edison State.

"Marvella was a powerful leader, and her influence did not end with her passing this past year," said Edison State President Doreen Larson. "As an Edison State Trustee, Marvella worked with outstanding attention to hiring and supporting female leaders for the college. She took particular pride in the fact that along with her election as the Vice Chair of the Board, the current Chair of the Board, Tami Baird-Ganley,

and I formed the first-ever female team at the highest levels of college leadership. However, Trustee Fletcher's heart was centered on the nursing program and nursing graduates from Edison State."

President Larson commended the graduates, stating, "the 2021 Edison State nursing graduates are destined for greatness. They will carry the special legacy of Trustee Fletcher represented by the angel pin they have been awarded."

"Trustee Fletcher attended every nursing pinning ceremony at Edison State with pride and respect for the graduates and the faculty. As a former hospital administrator, Trustee Fletcher knew the value of quality nurses and nursing careers. I have no doubt that the graduates of this nursing class will hear a special voice and feel special confidence that will propel them to extraordinary success. Congratulations, graduates!"



# Alumni Spotlight

## SARAH FRYER 2009

Sarah joined The Piqua Community Foundation as Executive Assistant in December 2020. She is an Edison State Community College graduate who earned an Associate of Arts degree. She went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Communication at Wright State University and a Master of Business Administration in Human Resource Management from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. She has spent most of her career creating learning resources and facilitating training sessions for financial institutions in the Columbus area. Sarah enjoys being back in the area with her 2-year-old daughter and her husband.

## MATT MEYER 1990

Matt Meyer of Anna started serving as the Director of Student Services at the Upper Valley Career Center in 2011 and continues in that role today. At Upper Valley, Matt oversees all Student Services, including special education, counselors, recruitment, public relations, job placement, vocation coordinators, school nursing, testing, and the Student Assistance Center. Prior to Upper Valley Career Center, Matt served for eighteen years at Anna Local Schools, the last five as the middle school principal. He is an Edison State Community College graduate with an Associate of Science. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Education from Wright State University and a Master of Education Leadership from the University of Dayton. He also received his Principal and Superintendent licensure from the University of Dayton. Matt and his wife Christa have four children and four grandchildren. Matt is busy within his community serving on the Council on Rural Services as a Board of Trustee member and as Vice-Chairperson. Matt was an assistant coach in the basketball program at Edison State Community College and continues to enjoy watching high school basketball and spending time with his grandchildren.

## REBECAH SORRELL 1987

Rebecah Sorrell serves as the Director of Preble County Job and Family Services. In her role she works directly for the Preble County Commissioners and oversees all public assistance programs, child protection services, child support, and the Ohio Means Jobs programs for Preble County. After graduating from Edison State Community College with an Associate of Applied Science in Human Resource Technology, Rebecah went on to receive a Bachelor of Arts in Organizational Management from Ashford University. Rebecah shared that her early education at Edison State Community College offered her opportunities that she would not have otherwise had. As a single mother at the time, her oldest son's father tragically died in an accident when he was a baby, Rebecah was able to parent her son, work a part-time job, and attend Edison State, taking advantage of the childcare that was offered on-site. Sorrell attributes her success to many at Edison State, specifically Matha Schlienitz, the department head at the time, who provided her with clarity and direction in her career path. Getting her start at Edison State provided Sorrell with the foundation for success and she has been able to work her way up in the agency over time, finishing her bachelor's degree while working for Job and Family Services. In June 2021, Rebecah will celebrate 32 years of service to the community and helping other families and children. Rebecah has been actively involved as a member of multiple community boards and committees including Adult Protective Services, Continuum of Care, Family and Children First Council, Preble County Council of Aging, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Next Step Living, Stephen Ministry, and her church. In 2020 Sorrell was named a YWCA of Dayton Women of Influence Honoree. Sorrell lives in Eldorado and has been married for 34 years to her very supportive husband Larry. They have three adult kids, Dustin, Carley and Brad, as well as two grandchildren, Lucy and Jude.

# Edison State At a Glance



over  
**130**  
acres of rolling  
green space



**5**  
convenient locations  
Piqua • Greenville • Eaton • Troy • Online



**13:1**  
student to  
faculty ratio



over  
**\$8.2M**  
in student federal aid  
awarded in 2019-20



**5** NJCAA division II sports  
baseball • men's & women's basketball  
softball • volleyball



**24/7**  
helpdesk support



more than  
**100**  
degrees, certificates,  
and short-term technical  
certificates



**\$2M+**  
in Foundation scholarships  
awarded since 1993



**35+**  
programs can be  
completed entirely or  
80-99% online



more than  
**370**  
available  
courses



over  
**4,000**  
students  
enrolled



**18**  
hole PDGA disc  
golf course

THE EDISON FOUNDATION'S **Drive for Scholarships**

**FRIDAY**  
**9:00 AM**

**30**  
**JULY**

**REGISTER NOW!**

**LUNCH-GOLF-PRIZES**

VISIT [WWW.EDISONOHIO.EDU/DRIVE](http://WWW.EDISONOHIO.EDU/DRIVE)  
OR CALL 937.778.7805  
TO SIGN UP!

**Piqua Country Club**  
9812 N Country Club Rd, Piqua, OH 45356

**EdisonState**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
The Edison Foundation

## Upcoming Events

- July 5–Independence Day Observed  
*All Locations Closed*
- July 7–Career Pathways Advising Event
- July 30–Drive for Scholarships
- August 5–Career Pathways Advising Event
- August 10–Navigating Edison State
- August 13–Graduation Ceremony
- August 23–Fall Semester Begins
- December 1–Holiday Evening

# Scholarships Awarded

## EDISON STATE SCHOLARSHIPS

### THOMAS ALVA EDISON

- Emmalee Cecil–Champaign
- Taylor Collins–Darke
- Hailey Cremeens–Miami
- Rebekah Evans–Darke
- August Evans–Darke
- Joshua Fett–Darke
- Caitin Hallum–Miami
- Elise Hays–Darke
- Kendall Hill–Miami
- Ben Hillman–Champaign
- Emma Kennedy–Shelby
- Tyra Lee–Shelby
- Ana Patel–Shelby
- Jack Quinlisk–Shelby
- Makenna Radford–Champaign
- Avery Rench–Miami
- Becca Seger–Shelby
- Isaac Smith–Darke
- Tristan Stanhope–Miami
- Ashley Strosnider–Darke
- Naomi Terrill–Miami
- Elizabeth Wenrick–Miami
- Dylan Whitehead–Shelby

### PRESIDENT'S SCHOLARSHIP

- Alison Cox–Logan

### TRUSTEE'S SCHOLARSHIP

- Emily Scholl–Darke

### GED

- Abigail Wilkins–Miami

### DIVERSITY

- Jolie Nyiramahirwe–Montgomery

## EDISON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

### DARKE COUNTY CAMPUS

- Gianna Bixler–Darke
- Jena Mangen–Darke
- Taylor Stookey–Darke
- Josie Winner–Darke

### ADULT LEARNER

- Stephanie Bailey–Darke
- Michelle Riley–Shelby

### PREBLE COUNTY YOUTH FOUNDATION

- Audra Burger–Preble
- Walker Harris–Preble
- Erianna Macklin–Preble
- Emily Stockwell–Preble

### LITTLE BLACK DRESS

- Layne Claudy–Darke

### RAY & BETTYE LAUGHLIN

- Christopher Guillermin–Darke

### SUSIE WISE

- Courtney Foster–Darke
- Angelina Walker–Shelby

### KENNETH S. YOWELL

- Victoria Heuing–Shelby
- Zara McReynolds–Miami

### VALANDINGHAM

- Sean Grapes–Montgomery

### TRI-COUNTY TRUST

- Alexis Monnin–Shelby
- Jacqueline Olwine–Darke
- Mary Wood–Darke

### THOMAS & PATRICIA ROBINSON

- Sarah Beck–Shelby
- Ashley Bloomfield–Miami
- Kyle Ramey–Darke
- Diana Tuttle–Auglaize

### CHARLES RIDENOUR

- Montana Robbins–Shelby

### PITSENBARGER

- Kayla Arnold–Miami
- Alexandra Joseph–Auglaize

### KATHY ODA

- Laurel Butt–Miami

### MYERS-VACCARO ENGINEERING

- Kevin Riley–Shelby

### DRIVE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- Madisyn Allen–Shelby
- Devin Alston–Miami
- Ashley Asher–Miami
- Casey Breuning–Mercer
- Tyler Gates–Miami
- Lydia Heidenreich–Miami
- Ellie Holthaus–Shelby
- Emily Kindell–Miami
- Jennifer Wentz–Shelby

### VACCARO-MYERS

- Hannah Hopkins–Shelby

### MIAMI VOITURE ET 8

- Wendy Burchett–Miami

### MIAMI CO. FRAT. ORDER OF POLICE

- Matthew DeFalco–Miami

### WILLIAM M. MCCULLOCH MEMORIAL

- Paige Pelarske–Montgomery

### ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE COMMUNITY

- Lindsey Albers–Darke
- Ethan Amsden–Shelby
- Isaiah Baughman–Shelby
- Carley Boeckman–Mercer
- Erika Bohman–Darke
- Jennifer Bole–Montgomery
- Aaron Brautigam–Shelby

- Kailee Bush–Darke
- Bryson Church–Miami
- Alison Cox–Logan
- Brittany Davis–Miami
- Cannon Dishman–Miami
- Brian Downing–Shelby
- Tyler Gates–Miami
- Paige Graham–Miami
- Natalie Klosterman–Shelby
- Olivia Love–Miami
- Amy Powell–Montgomery
- Latisha Jackson–Miami
- Courtnie Smith–Logan
- Tia Thacker–Champaign
- Carrie Toler–Mercer

### ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE EMPLOYEE

- Hannah Allen–Logan
- Kendall Carter–Montgomery
- Karlee Farmer–Montgomery
- Deaton Koval–Clark
- Ahlam Partee–Miami
- Brittany Robbins–Logan
- Madison Rose–Champaign
- McKenzie Varady–Miami
- Sharea Waddle–Darke

### D. DOUGLAS KING MEMORIAL

- Olivia Wright–Darke

### HOLLY HAHN MEMORIAL

- Jolie Nyiramahirwe–Montgomery

### JOHN J. DUGAN MEMORIAL

- Kristi Barnes–Miami

### DONNELLY NURSING

- Rayna Brownlee–Miami
- Megan Crusey–Miami

### SHERYL BRINLEY MEMORIAL

- Kaitlyn Turner–Darke

### MARY REBECCA ALLEN MEMORIAL

- Garrett Wibbeler–Auglaize

### KATHY CLIFTON

- Brooke Deaton–Miami

### FRED VERCELES MEMORIAL

- Matheus Silva–Darke

### MIAMI VALLEY WOUNDED VETERANS

- Laura McKenzie–Champaign

### FRED FREED MEMORIAL

- Stephanie Osborne–Miami

### ANNA HUDELSON MEMORIAL

- Leslie Ralston–Shelby

### GREG & ALYSSA BLANKENSHIP

- Christopher Spencer–Miami

### TROY LIONS CLUB

- Ryan Levan–Miami



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# MAILING PANEL

## A Note From The Edison Foundation...

Make a 2021 tax-deductible gift to **The Edison Foundation**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization formed to support the educational and community service goals of **Edison State Community College**. All gifts are appreciated and provide scholarships and academic program support.

### DONATION YEAR-END DEADLINES

#### CHECK

Must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2021.

**The Edison Foundation**  
1973 Edison Drive  
Piqua, OH 45356

#### CREDIT CARD

If sent by mail, must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2021; if made online, **The Edison Foundation** must receive transaction details by 4 pm EST on Dec. 29, 2021.

**The Edison Foundation** accepts donations on PayPal via Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. The secure site is: [www.edisonohio.edu/donate](http://www.edisonohio.edu/donate)

#### GIFTS OF STOCK

To receive tax credit in 2021, must be received and handled by our broker, Fifth Third Bank. Contact Megan Alley at 513-534-3557 or [megan.alley@53.com](mailto:megan.alley@53.com). For a year-end gift or more information, please email [foundation@edisonohio.edu](mailto:foundation@edisonohio.edu) or call 937-778-7805.

*Thank you for your support!*

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION...

**WIRED** is an alumni and friends newsletter published by the Office of Business and Community Partnerships and the Office of Alumni Engagement. The newsletter contains alumni and friends highlights, information, and events that Edison State Community College supports and hosts on an ongoing basis. For more information, contact:

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