

WIRED

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE



INSIDE

**PROGRAM UPDATE:
THE ARTS**

ATHLETICS NEWS

ALUMNI FAMILY LEGACY

DRIVE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

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In commemoration of African-American freedom, Edison State recognized Juneteenth by flying a special flag to show support for this important date in American history.

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Wired Magazine Staff

Design

Andrea Francis

Editors

Dr. Rick Hanes
Andrea Francis
Jessica Hill
Christina Raterman

Contributions

Mersedes Beasley
Roger Fulk
Julie Slattery

Photographers

Andrea Francis
Jessica Hill

President's Office

Dr. Doreen Larson, President
Chris Spradlin, President-Designate

Business & Community Partnerships

Dr. Rick Hanes, VP of Advancement, Strategic Planning and Partnerships; Executive Director of The Edison Foundation
Christina Raterman, Director of Advancement
Julie Slattery, Administrative Assistant to the VP of Advancement, Strategic Planning and Partnerships; Secretary to The Edison Foundation

Marketing

Bruce McKenzie, Chief Marketing Officer & Director of Communications
Andrea Francis, Assistant Director of Marketing & Communication
Amy Barr, Web Administrator
Jessica Hill, Coordinator of Marketing & Communications Planner

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Office of Alumni Engagement
The Edison Foundation

Send any address changes to:
Edison State Community College
Office of Alumni Engagement
1973 Edison Drive, Piqua OH 45356
stayconnected@edisonohio.edu

Upcoming Events

October

- 4-5 Veteran Services Event: Bocce Ball
- 6 Scholarship Recipient Dinner
- 7 Tailgating at Greenville High School Football Game
- 12 State of the College followed by Dr. Larson Retirement Reception
- 14 Tailgating at Miami East High School Football Game
- 24 Spring Registration Begins

November

- 1-2 Veteran Services Event: Disc Golf
- 11 Veterans Day—Campuses Closed
- 24-27 Thanksgiving—Campuses Closed
- 30 Holiday Evening at Edison State
- 30 MLT Application Deadline

December

- 14 Charger Country Alumni & Friends Night—Basketball



Edison State Community College invites you to attend the Annual State of the College Address & Reception. Please join us as we celebrate the grand reopening of the Robinson Theatre, highlight the successes of Edison State, and honor Dr. Larson and her husband Len, with a retirement celebration.

OCT. 12 2022
3:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

EdisonState COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ROBINSON STUDENT CAREER CENTER

Robinson Theatre Reopening
3:45 to 4:00

State of the College Address
4:00 to 4:30

Dr. Larson Reception
4:30 to 5:30

RSVP—Julie Slattery, 937.778.7805 or jslattery@edisonohio.edu

EdisonState COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Edison State Community College, 1973 Edison Dr. Piqua, OH

EdisonState CHARGER ATHLETICS REVERSE RAFFLE
03.16.2023 6:00 PM

WILL YOU BE THE LUCKY ONE WHO TAKES HOME \$10,000?
Don't miss the **Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle**—directly benefitting Edison State student athletes!

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2023 | 6:00 PM
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE | PIQUA CAMPUS

To purchase tickets, go to www.edisonohio.edu/charger, scan the QR code or make your \$100 check payable to "Charger Reverse Raffle" and mail to Edison State Athletics Department, c/o Edison State Community College • 1973 Edison Drive • Piqua, OH 45356. If you have questions, please call 937.778.7805.

EdisonState COMMUNITY COLLEGE
The Edison Foundation
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SCAN ME

From the President



OPEN AND GROWING

While news articles continue to share reports of enrollment declines, Edison State Community College is making headlines with continued enrollment growth, student success, and financial strength.

Faculty and students started the fall semester with full classrooms and active spaces at all four campuses. Enrollment in online courses, certificates, and degrees also grew. Many students take advantage of the schedule options to blend online and on-campus learning according to their own needs and current availability. Allow me to share some of the highlights of success of Edison State.

Everything at Edison State proceeds from our Mission Statement, "Edison State Community College provides the learning opportunities, support services, and commitment that enable students to complete their educational goals and realize their dreams."

The college commitment includes maintaining affordable tuition and fees. Tuition for a full year at Edison State is \$5,298.60, including books and fees. A full year of tuition at a four-year public university (excluding room and board) averages \$10,560.

We were excited to see enrollment growth this fall in the 25 and older student category. Our tuition waiver for adult students taking accelerated degrees and certificates is fueling these students to return to or start college, gain critical skills, and enter careers in well-paying jobs.

Edison State has a legacy of support for active military and student veterans. In spring 2022, we were honored to be in the first group of colleges in the State of Ohio to earn the Collegiate Purple Star Award from Governor DeWine for our services and support for veterans. There is a veterans' student lounge available at the Piqua Campus, and our veterans' coordinator, Joe Ratermann, has organized regular meetings for veterans to network and learn about college support.

Acknowledging the range of student support needs, a food pantry and community resource center have been made available at all campus locations. Likewise, students continue to utilize the Emergency Funds supported by

The Edison Foundation. These funds help with unexpected costs such as car repairs, childcare, and college supplies. Without the help of this fund, many students would need to stop out of their programs.

We're always looking for new ways to augment formal learning with college activities, and we recently added a musical option for students. As you attend college events this year, you'll experience the music of the Charger Music Society, led by Edison State faculty member, Gail Ahmed. The performing group includes current and former students, staff, faculty, and general members of the community. Be on the watch for the Edison State Fight Song composed by Gail!

Finally, we understand the role that college facilities play in the overall experience for our students and as contributing partners to the community. We're adding digital directional signs to the Piqua Campus along with a complete renovation of the Robinson Theater. As we move into the holiday season, we hope the campus holiday lighting displays add to the beauty and fun of the season.

In this issue of *Wired*, you'll learn about the success of fellow alums, updates on college programs, powerful partnerships, and features of a legacy family. I first invite you to take a minute to get to know our President-Designate, Chris Spradlin.

Dr. Doreen Larson, President

[@larson_doreen](#)



Chris Spradlin
President-Designate

OUR NEXT PRESIDENT

Chris Spradlin has been selected by the Board of Trustees as the College's sixth President. Having started with the College in July 2016 as Provost, Chris most recently served as Executive Vice President and Provost of Edison State.

Chris has proven himself successful over the last six years at Edison State by implementing the Guided Pathways to Success model, developing new academic programs such as aviation and veterinary technology, and opening new campuses in Troy and Eaton.

Before joining Edison State, Chris served as a Vice President and Dean at Lake Michigan College and Cuyahoga Community College. He began his career in higher education in 2002 as an adjunct faculty member at Ivy Tech

Community College in Fort Wayne, Indiana, advancing to a full-time faculty and Department Chair position there.

Chris grew up in Wheelersburg, Ohio, and completed a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree in religion. He is currently writing the dissertation for his doctorate in education, and he resides in Troy with his wife and two children.

As Chris enters his new role as President, he aims to implement several key priority projects to benefit the College and its stakeholders, including:

- Extending the current tuition waiver programs.
- Assisting young students through the new Cradle to Career West Central Ohio Regional Educational Partnership Program
- Developing new learning models and new programs of study, such as Respiratory Care Technician
- Incorporating new software into the launch of Guided Pathways 2.0
- Increasing awareness of student supportive services, such as mental health counseling
- Expanding competency-based education to the program level
- Upgrading facilities by modernizing classrooms, expanding nursing wing, revamping the engineering lab, renovating space for the Criminal Justice and Peace Officer Academy programs, and adding two new locker rooms for athletics.

Chris currently has the title "President-Designate" through December 31, 2022. He will assume the title of "President" on January 1, 2023. At that time, Dr. Larson will move to the role of "Executive Advisor" until her retirement.

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Update on the Arts **The Arts**



Edison State alumna Nancy Shuler proudly shows off one of her paintings.

DEVELOP YOUR INNER ARTIST

Students planning to pursue a four-year fine arts degree can complete the first two years at Edison State Community College. Led by Greg Clem, Professor of Fine Arts, the Edison State art department has aligned with the fine art pathway developed by the State of Ohio, allowing students to transfer into a four-year fine arts program at any state school as a junior.

“During their time at Edison State, students will complete a cohort of courses in 2D and 3D foundations,” said Clem. “They then have the option of choosing from a number of fine art

electives, such as darkroom or digital photography, ceramics, painting, printmaking, and sculpture.”

Edison State’s art department also works with students wanting to take studio art courses as electives or for personal interest and those majoring in interactive media programs at the College. Those in interactive media programs will take courses that help them build their design and composition skills, as well as practice manual skills and techniques that directly translate to the digital design environment.

Art Department Faculty & Staff

- Greg Clem—Art History, Drawing, 2D & 3D Design, Sculpture, and Printmaking
- Maureen O’Keefe—Drawing, Painting, and 2D Design
- Jolyn Colebaugh—Drawing and 2D Design
- Stephanie Beiser—Ceramics
- Timothy Householder—Photography
- Frank Travers—Drawing and 2D Design

Most of the courses offered through the art department at Edison State are part of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE)’s Transfer Assurance Guide (TAG), meaning they’ll transfer as an equivalent course to other state schools in Ohio. Many of these courses have also been accepted at private colleges and universities in the state.

“While at Edison State, I attended workshops with local and out-of-state artists working in their field,” said alumna Jennifer Noren. “It was a wonderful supplement to the art program and provided validating and encouraging experiences for me to continue exploring mediums and pursue an art degree.”

Non-art majors and non-degree-seeking community members can also take advantage of Edison State’s art offerings. The department supports all students who wish to enhance their education and cultivate interests within and outside of their chosen career field.

“We believe everyone has an artist living somewhere inside them, it’s just a matter of finding it,” Clem said. “Students can pursue careers in engineering, medicine, or science and take art courses to help them cultivate

and develop their equally important lifelong creative passions. We’ve had students go on to become artists, teachers, filmmakers, actors, designers, managers, and engineers.”

“Events from my time with the Edison State art department have rippled through my life in ways I couldn’t have imagined,” said alumnus Brandon Gates. “I learned how to pivot, not just on my feet but in my head. This skill has allowed me to run successful restaurants in Seattle, bouncing from small fire to small fire while focusing on customers and providing the best service.”

The Anne Vaccaro and David Myers Gallery at Edison State is run by the art department and supports campus and community-wide art education. The gallery has eight exhibitions a year, which feature a diverse range of artwork from professional artists, community members, and Edison State art students.

“My experience while taking classes at Edison State was wonderful and prepared me for my career as a full-time professional artist,” alumna Nancy Shuler said. “The classes were collaborative and interactive, and we



were taught to ‘think large.’”

Shuler continued, “While at Edison State, I had two group art shows and two solo art exhibitions in the Anne Vaccaro and David Myers Gallery. Since graduating, I’ve exhibited in Dayton at The Dayton Art Institute and Front Street Galleries and in Troy at the Hayner Cultural Center and Arbogast Performing Arts Center.”

Their Experience



Nancy Shuler
Class of '12

My time at Edison State has been very meaningful because of the support and encouragement I received and continue to receive from staff and friends. Because of my career in fine arts, I am now able to paint and draw daily in my studio practice, make sales, interact in the art world, and run my studio as an LLC. You may find my art at nancyshuler.com.



Pat Klopfenstein
Current Student

I had a career teaching, but pottery is my passion. The vessels you can create are never ending. In class, you not only learn from your instructor but are also inspired by watching other students. Also, clay is so tactile and relaxing to work with. Taking the clay class at Edison State has helped me appreciate the skill it takes to be a professional potter.



Jennifer Noren
Class of '15

While attending Edison State, I attended workshops with local and out-of-state artists working in their field. It was a wonderful supplement to the art program foundation and provided validating and encouraging experiences for me to continue exploring mediums and pursue an art degree.

ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College established its annual "Illuminate the Future" Community Scholarship Campaign to provide community members with the opportunity to support local students with scholarships at Edison State, helping them to achieve their lifelong goals.

Funds raised in the 2021 "Illuminate the Future" Community Scholarship Campaign helped to support 16 full- and part-time students like Aaron Brautigam of Sidney, Ohio. Brautigam is a student in the Electro-Mechanical

Engineering program at Edison State who hopes to pursue a career in the manufacturing field.

In a letter to the donors who made his scholarship possible, Brautigam expressed his gratitude, stating, "The Illuminate the Future Community Scholarship I was awarded will greatly alleviate the financial pressure of the next semester."

Since 1973, Edison State has served as the region's connection to higher education, providing everything from industry-recognized licenses, certificate programs, and associate degree programs to work-based learning, including nationally recognized

apprenticeship and university transfer programs.

Edison State offers over 100 degree, certificate, and short-term technical certificate opportunities, which are designated to meet the needs of regional employers while serving a growing student population.

The Edison Foundation invites community members to help ensure Edison State students continue to be well-equipped for their future life dreams and demands. To support the "Illuminate the Future" Community Scholarship Campaign, contact The Edison Foundation.

Experience



Mark Gibbs

A lesson that continues to enrich my life is my involvement with studio time, class critiques, and project presentations. Each one of these offered me the opportunity to share my work, ideas, process, and goals with a peer group of different skill levels and backgrounds. This also gave me the opportunity to receive feedback and advice to improve my work. I believe that being exposed to others' ideas, processes, and experiences was as valuable a learning experience as the curriculum itself.



Brandon Gates

A number of the teachers left an impact on me as a developing person, but none greater than Anne Vaccaro. She taught me it was amazing to be myself. She let me develop independently and with tutelage in a way that felt natural and practiced. She was an amazing soul and still comes up often all these years later. But I think the greatest thing I got from my time in the art department was a life partner and best friend in my significant other Rachel. We met through theater with a gentle guiding hand from Anne and have never looked back.

MINI-GRANT RECIPIENTS

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College recently funded the Charger Music Society, a musical ensemble consisting of Edison State students, faculty and staff, and community members, with a mini-grant to purchase a new digital keyboard and related items. Beginning this year, the Charger Music Society will be under the direction of musician and Edison State adjunct Chris Braun. The Charger Music Society will perform at Edison State events as well as possible community events (schedule permitting).



Charger Athletics Update

CHARGERS EARN OCCAC ALL-SPORTS AWARD

Edison State Community College Athletics has been named the 2021-22 Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) All-Sports Award recipient. This marks the Chargers' second such accolade in the last three seasons after not competing due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-21.

"I'm truly proud of all our student-athletes and coaches," said Edison State Athletics Director Nate Cole. "Our winning success on the courts and playing fields could only be halted by COVID-19, or this would have made it two years in a row."

Edison State's five athletics programs posted a combined .705 winning percentage (58-24-1) against OCCAC competition, with each team finishing inside the top 3 of their respective league standings. The women's basketball program, guided by OCCAC Coach of the Year Tim McMahon, led the charge by going 14-0 en route to a conference championship. Additional annual awards won by Chargers include:



Katelyn Sosby



Kailah Johnson

- Volleyball Libero of the Year, Katelyn Sosby
- Women's Basketball Player of the Year, Kailah Johnson
- Men's Basketball Co-Coach of the Year, Kyle Vanover

"We're really excited for the future of Edison State Athletics—a winning tradition and excellence in the classroom," Cole added.

In total, Edison State garnered 11 First Team All-OCCAC selections and saw 28 student-athletes named the player or pitcher of the week.

The OCCAC All-Sports Award is tallied by issuing points to schools based on their place of finish in each OCCAC-sponsored sport and dividing



Men's Basketball Head Coach Kyle Vanover

by the total number of sports at each respective school. Conference champions earn 10 points, second place earns 9, and so on. Ties are divided (i.e., a two-way tie for second place would result in both schools receiving 8.5 points; a three-way tie would give each team 8.0 points). A three-sport minimum is required to win the award.

STUDENT-ATHLETES ADVANCE

Because of their outstanding athletic and academic performance, a number of Edison State student-athletes have committed to compete at four-year universities this fall.

- Kailah Johnson, Women's Basketball, Ohio University
- Michael Tragesser, Baseball, Midway University
- Jordan Long, Baseball, Notre Dame College
- Clay Jacobs, Baseball, Ball State University
- Jaren Slusher, Baseball, Shorter University
- Kayla Runyon, Softball, Ohio Northern University
- Sidney Unger, Softball, University of Northwestern Ohio
- Mason Mocahee, Baseball, Limestone University
- Kevin Bellamy, Baseball, Cumberland University
- Nia Johnson, Women's Basketball, Ohio Dominican University
- Sekou Maiga, Men's Basketball, Indiana University East

athletics Volleyball Season Kicks Off



Front [L to R]: Olivia Bradshaw, Ava Winner, Heidi Anderson, Lydia Sanchez, Mackenzie Singer, Emily Aiello, Taylor Lessing; **Back [L to R]:** Coach Pothast, Coach Potts, Catryn Mohler, Sarah Clark, Savannah Will, Alayna Trucksis, Graceanne Slade, Brianna Slusher, Molly Vance, Coach Brandewie.

Edison State Community College's volleyball team kicked off the start of the 2022-2023 athletics seasons on Thursday, August 18. The Lady Chargers have worked hard in preparation of the season.

Head Coach Julia Brandewie is leading the Lady Chargers for the sixth season. "I'm really looking forward to the start of this season," Brandewie said. "We have a lot of depth on our roster. I have high expectations for them."

The Lady Chargers returned to the court with five sophomores and nine incoming freshmen.

"Returning this season is Brianna Slusher, who made First Team All-OCCAC and First Team for the NJCAA Region XII. She was named an OCCAC Player of the Week numerous times last season," said Brandewie.

She added, "We have nine incoming freshmen this year who have a lot to contribute. Sarah Clark, an outside from Jackson Center, was named to the All-Ohio team for Division IX along with First Team for the Shelby County Athletic League (SCAL) in 2021, and I believe she has a bright future ahead of her at Edison State."

"We've also added some outstanding defensive players with Ava Winner (Second Team All-SCAL) and Heidi Anderson. Our incoming freshman setter Taylor Lessing was named Second Team All-SCAL and will play a large part in running our offense. We've also added a bit of height to our team with Alayna Trucksis at 6 feet 3 inches and Grace Slade at 6 feet, and they both have great blocking skills. We have one incoming transfer student, Molly Vance from Ohio Christian University; she's a solid player with an outstanding work ethic and attitude."

The team played their first game on Thursday, August 18, traveling to take on Clark State College in a conference matchup and winning the game 3-1. The Lady Chargers will play their next home game on Monday, September 12, against Owens Community College.

Joining Brandewie are Tasha Potts and Sarah Pothast as assistant coaches.

Visit athletics.edisonohio.edu for the latest news, upcoming games, and complete rosters.

2022 Volleyball Roster

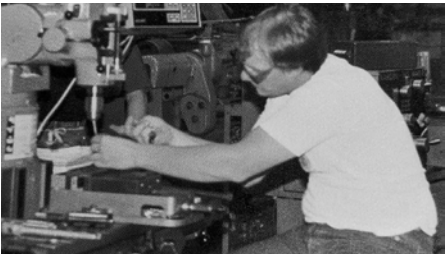
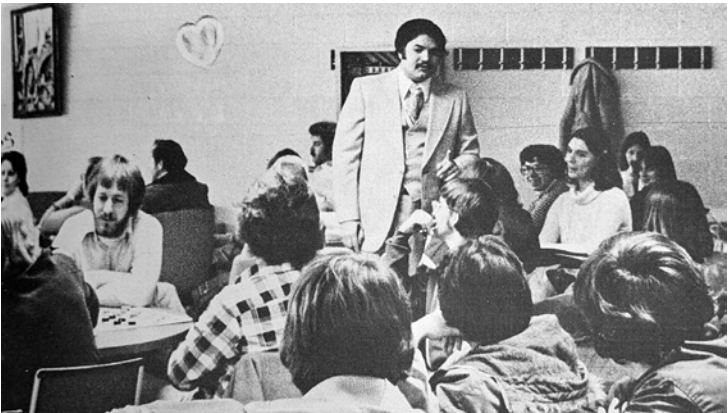
Name	Year	Position	High School
Emily Aiello	SO	Setter	Perrysburg
Heidi Anderson	FR	Def. Specialist	West Carrollton
Olivia Bradshaw	FR	Def. Specialist/Outside	Christian Academy
Sarah Clark	FR	Outside Hitter	Jackson Center
Taylor Lessing	FR	Setter	Fairlawn
Catryn Mohler	SO	Outside Hitter	Houston
Lydia Sanchez	SO	Setter/Outside Hitter	Racine Lutheran
Mackenzie Singer	FR	Setter	Ansonia
Graceanne Slade	FR	Middle Hitter	Hardin-Houston
Brianna Slusher	SO	Middle Hitter	Troy
Alayna Trucksis	FR	Middle Hitter	Tippecanoe
Molly Vance	FR	Outside Hitter	Benjamin Logan
Ava Winner	SO	Back Row	Jackson Center

Head Coach Julia Brandewie
 Assistant Coach Tasha Potts
 Assistant Coach Sarah Pothast



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, you're invited to take a trip down memory lane as you browse through past photographs.



Beyond the Campus

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

CATERED GREENHOUSE DINNER

Leesa Baker, Executive Director of YWCA Piqua, attended The Edison Foundation's Bet on the Future: A Stick Horse Derby event in May and won the catered dinner at Miller Flowers in Greenville, Ohio. Leesa brought a party of eight people to the greenhouse on Friday, June 10, and enjoyed a festive summer evening. She surprised her friends with the outing, and all were overjoyed, sharing comments such as, "This is the best meal I have ever had!" and "This meal is a once-in-a-lifetime experience!"

Leesa shared that the Miller sisters, Gina and Caitlin, were gracious hosts, providing a breathtaking floral atmosphere, and AVI Foodsystems' Chef Don Walters was a master chef who showed his creative talents on the wood fire grill, preparing vegetables, salmon, stuffed chicken, bone-in ribeye with leeks, and grilled angel food cake along with serving fresh fruit, various types of baked bread, and more. Leesa enthusiastically said, "It was a perfect event to share with very close friends and an unforgettable evening."

RESTOCKING THE CHARGER STATIONS

The Edison State Student Needs Team recently devoted time to purchasing items to restock the Charger Stations, which provide students with snack and meal items, toiletries, and other resources. Charger Stations can



L to R: Mark Fierce, Mary Lou Fierce, Ellen Jay, Leesa Baker, Bill Jay, Pam Kennedy, Jake Kennedy, and Rick Rihm.

be found at each Edison State location and are supported entirely by grants from The Edison Foundation, local county organizations, and donations from employees, students, and community members.

VOLLEY FOR A CAUSE



The Edison State Community College Student Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) Club made a \$735 donation to the Rehabilitation Center for Neurological Development in Piqua. Funds donated to the organization were raised during the Student PTA Club's Volley for a Cause event on May 7 at the Lincoln

Community Center in Troy. "The funds will be used to purchase much-needed new equipment, such as AquaJogger belts, foam buddies, and Dolfin adult and child kickboards. We're honored to be a community partner with the Edison State PTA program," said Carla Bertke, Executive Director at the Rehab Center.

AT THE FAIR



Edison State proudly supports our local county fairs. During an event at the Miami County Fair, kids were treated to Edison State drawstring bags and t-shirts that aptly stated, "Never stop learning!"

Employees Recognized



Elizabeth Bingham pictured with Dr. Larson



Amanda Bylczyński pictured with Dr. Larson



Student Needs Team (L to R, Pictured with Dr. Larson) Laura Quinlisk, Trisha Elliott, Dr. Amanda Bylczyński, and Dr. Jessica Chambers. Not Pictured: Ashley Homan

Edison State Community College recognized outstanding employee performance during a recent All-College Meeting. Each semester, the College recognizes a faculty or adjunct faculty member, a staff member, and a team with an Employee of the Semester award.

Elizabeth Bingham, Assistant Professor of the Veterinary Technician Program; Dr. Amanda Bylczyński, Assistant Dean for Accreditation and Academic Effectiveness; Dr. Jessica Chambers, Dean of Student Engagement; Trisha Elliott, Coordinator of Client Relations & Program Outreach; Ashley Homan, Enrollment Manager; and Laura Quinlisk, Career Pathways Advisor/Campus & Community Resources, were named the spring 2022 employees of the semester. The honorees were invited to enjoy a Dayton Dragons game from the Edison State suite at Fifth Third Field.

Bingham was recognized for her work in developing and leading Edison State's Veterinary Technology program, which recently received initial accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA).

"The accreditation process includes a significant report on the activities of the program and a site visit by a

group of peers within the profession," a nominator said. "In addition to successfully completing the report and site visit during this spring term, Elizabeth's dedication, experience, and approachability were listed as the top strengths of the program by the visiting team."

"Elizabeth shows great dedication to developing the program. It's also noteworthy how devoted she is in supporting her students. This year's initial group of graduates was able to take advantage of the many relationships she's built with local veterinary offices to complete the clinical skills for the program."

Bingham has been an employee of Edison State for nearly three years and holds a Bachelor of Science.

Nominated for the positive difference she makes on campus every day, Dr. Bylczyński "holds herself accountable and politely and professionally holds others accountable as well."

"Amanda strives for excellence by ensuring both she and our community meet deadlines," one nominator said. "She selflessly reviews others' work products and makes suggestions for improvement—whether she will receive accolades or not."

"She exercises unquestionable integrity. She's direct and honest,

and her actions serve as a model, which promotes trust and cooperation throughout the campus community."

The Edison State Student Needs Team, led by Dr. Chambers and including Dr. Bylczyński, Elliott, Homan, and Quinlisk, was honored for their work in managing the Student Resource Center and Pantry at the Piqua Campus, as well as resources at Edison State's regional locations.

"This team works to help students obtain basic necessities and resources outside of the classroom," a nominator said. "The Charger Station food pantries have helped fill the gap for students with food insecurities identified during the pandemic."

"Because the team applies for grants and requests donations from staff, faculty, and students, all resources for their work are fully funded. This is how the Student Needs Team demonstrates the employee core value of, 'We will be responsible stewards of our resources.'"

All Edison State employees who demonstrate a commitment to performance excellence goals, core values, and continued growth are eligible to be nominated for the award. Those eligible for the award are nominated by their peers and then selected by the Valuing People Committee.

\$22,000 Raised for Scholarships



The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College enjoyed beautiful weather at the scenic Troy Country Club golf course during its 4th Annual Drive for Scholarships event on July 29. The event welcomed 96 participating golfers, as well as volunteers and sponsors, and raised \$22,459 for scholarships, bringing the total funds raised through the annual event to \$55,541.

All proceeds directly benefit the student scholarship program, which provides Edison State students with the opportunity to attain higher education. The funds raised in this year's event will provide 22 \$1,000 student scholarships. Recipients of the scholarship can pursue their educational and career goals with less financial worry.

"With the Drive for Scholarship, I'm now free of any financial burden, which allows me to finish my school career strong," said Madisyn Allen, who received a Drive for Scholarship during the 2021-2022 academic year while pursuing a Medical Assistant certificate.

The Akers Packaging Service Group team placed first in the scramble, consisting of the following golfers: Al Rister, Seth Rister, Clark Manson, and Tom Christy. Placing second was

the Waibel Energy Systems team, consisting of Gordon Fairchild, Shay Moran, Nathan Lammers, and David Conklin. Third place was taken by the TDW Investments team, consisting of Tyler White, Kyle Nobel, Brad Ellis, and Damen Patel.

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

Event sponsors included Driver sponsors Credent Wealth Management, Edison State, and Franklin University; \$10,000 Cash Prize sponsor Buckeye Ford; Hospitality Cart sponsor Greenville National Bank; Lunch sponsors Premier Health/UVMC and Wilson Health; Prize sponsors Airstream, KTH Parts Industries, and VPP Industries; Putter sponsors Akers Packaging Service Group, Clark Schafer Hackett, Doreen and Len Larson, Park National, Realty 2000 Group, Waibel Energy Systems, and Bettye and Ray Laughlin; Student Scholarship sponsors Greenville Federal and DH Productions; Golfers Team Picture sponsor Greenville Federal; Tee/Green sponsors Akers Packaging Service Group, Baird Funeral Home, Brethren



First Place Team—Akers Packaging Service Group



Second Place Team—Waibel Energy Systems



Third Place Team—TDW Investments

Retirement Community, Bright Ideas, Bruns General, Crown Equipment Corporation, D&S Construction, Edward Jones-Chris Slattery, Fifth Third Bank, Fry & Company CPAs, Hamler Gingrich Insurance Agency, Hartzell Propeller, KNM Automotive, Koverman Staley Dickerson, Koverman Staley Dickerson: Wayde Davis; Littman Thomas, Marias Technology, Market Smart Solutions, Mutual Federal, NKTelco, Inc., Orbis, Oregon Group Architects, Picture Perfect Photos & Design, Primary EyeCare Associates, Scott Family McDonalds, Sentinel, SHP, Versailles Exempt Village Schools, Victory Machine & Fab, Wayne HealthCare, Westerheide Construction, Rick and Beth Hanes, Brian and Emma Swiger, John and Ginger Warner, and DH Productions.

A SPECIAL THANKS

The Edison Foundation sends a special thanks to the Drive for Scholarships committee and volunteers who made this event a success.

SAVE THE DATE

**5th Annual Drive for Scholarships
July 28, 2023—Troy Country Club**

Summer Symposium for HR Professionals



Gail Sease addresses a crowd of 85 during the Summer Symposium for HR professionals.



The Center for Workforce Development & Education at Edison State Community College recently hosted the 2022 Summer Symposium for Human Resources (HR) Professionals at Edison State's Piqua Campus. The event attracted 85 professionals from 46 companies within eight Ohio counties.

The one-day conference focused on helping attendees discover how to address current and future challenges in self-care, employee well-being, recruiting and retention strategies, and more. Participants also had the opportunity to network with other professionals.

The featured keynote address provided by Gail Sease was titled "Resilience or Boundaries? Bouncing Back Better in the Wild World of Work." Sease combined experience from her professional and personal experiences to deliver an address with which audience members could relate.

Sease's professional experience

bridges several industries, including construction, automotive, IT, and food equipment. Through the years, she supported over 1,000 technicians at Hobart Service before pivoting to a full-time life coaching business in October 2021.

She holds an associate degree in communication arts from Sinclair Community College, a bachelor's degree in communication management with a minor in human resources from the University of Dayton, and a master's degree in organizational communication from Miami University. Sease became a Certified Professional Coach (CPC) through the Institute of Professional Excellence in Coaching (iPEC) in 2019 and is a member of the International Coaching Federation (ICF).

Her emphasis on mental health in her coaching was preceded by life experience in trauma recovery. As a leader, Sease is focused on creating healthy work cultures that foster

employee engagement and high performance. Observing how isolation, workload intensity, pandemic protocols, and stress impacted her team and field technicians, she encourages business and HR leaders to look for ways to continue to support their teams through these turbulent times.

Participants also heard from other industry professionals addressing topics such as conflict management, motivating a multigenerational workforce, and Ohio and federal employment law updates. The event's program was pre-approved by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) for 4.5 recertification credits for SHRM-CP/SHRM-SCP.

The conference was made possible by sponsors HR Association of Western Ohio (HRAWO) and Let's Lead HR Consulting.

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.

Recently, 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.

Enroll in 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 "one click" application to Franklin to finish the remainder of your bachelor's degree credits
- Get the first required bachelor's degree course (PF321 Learning Strategies) free

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.



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

edisonohio.edu/portal

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





Back Row (Left to Right): Tasha, Matthew (Matt), Kim, Clarissa, Craig, Zach, Lucas, and Tory
 Front Row (Left to Right): Lillian, Connor, Jacob, Benjamin, Alexis, and William
 Photograph by Kathy Shimp

Alumni Spotlight

The Kiehls: An Alumni Family Legacy

The rich experience of attending Edison State Community College creates special connections to campus, which can resonate throughout an entire family. When that happens, an alumni family legacy is formed...

The Kiehl family's alumni legacy began with the marriage of Kim and Craig Kiehl. They both share the hometown of Piqua, Ohio. After Kim graduated from Piqua High School as a valedictorian, she was offered a scholarship to a private school, but additional costs led her to choose Edison State. In 1987, she earned her Secretarial Office and Administration degree. She learned shorthand, enhanced her typing skills, became extremely detail oriented, and even won a national award for Business Professionals of America, earning 1st place in an Iowa competition. A few years after graduation, she found herself back on campus as a secretary for the marketing department and has been employed at Edison State ever since. Kim is currently enjoying her work at Edison State as a Coordinator of Academic Information and has valued giving back to the community.

Craig graduated from Edison State in 2008 with a degree in Industrial Management. Through this

accomplishment and experience in enterprise resource planning (ERP), Craig advanced from manufacturing management to the Materials Manager for NOV Inc. Craig states, "Edison State helped me to be a more rounded professional by enhancing my communications, presentation, computer, and overall management skills."

He was older than traditional-aged students and therefore more experienced than many of his classmates. He remembers how the professors would always draw on his real-life examples in the classroom, making class discussions fun and interactive.

Along the way, Kim and Craig were also very busy raising their children: Matt, Zach, and Clarissa. All three attended the preschool at Edison State and even took classes for college credit while in high school.

Matt, their oldest, decided to stay close to home and attend Edison State, creating a substantial financial savings advantage for his family. In 2010, Matt graduated from the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program, and he received his general Associate of Science degree in 2012. Since then, Matt has earned a bachelor's degree in Clinical Laboratory Science from the University

of Cincinnati. The MLT program required an internship, so Matt worked for Wilson Health in Sidney, Ohio, enabling him to start building his career. He's now the Administrative Director of Laboratory Services at Wayne Healthcare in Greenville, Ohio. Matt currently resides in Piqua with his wife, Tasha, and their three children, Lillian, Connor, and Jacob. They all attended the Child Development Center at Edison State, just as Matt did earlier in life. He jokes that "It's a generational thing!" Matt currently serves on both the MLT and Phlebotomy advisory boards for the College and is a committee member for The Edison Foundation's Drive for Scholarships fundraising event.

Kim and Craig's second oldest, Zach, graduated from Edison State with an Associate of Science degree in 2013 and then transferred to Wright State University, where he received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in Biomedical Engineering. Zach also holds a Master of Business Administration from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Edison State prepared Zach for his career by fostering critical thinking skills and helping him navigate working in small teams. In 2020, he co-founded a company called

Sentinel, where he serves as the CEO. There, he focuses on how technology can be used to help monitor health and safety. Sentinel has since received the Entrepreneurial Startup of the Year from the Dayton Development Coalition and the Soin Award for Innovation from the Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce. Zach appreciates all the knowledge he gained from Professor Thomas Martinez, friendships built through the baseball team, and fellow students he's still great friends with today. Like his brother, Zach also serves on the Drive for Scholarships committee. Zach is incredibly grateful to have met his wife, Tory, on campus.

Tory was born and raised in Versailles, Ohio. She received an athletic volleyball scholarship at Edison State and graduated from the Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program in 2014. Shortly after graduation, she passed her state board exam, married Zach, and accepted a position in a skilled nursing facility in Wilmington, Ohio. Edison State offered everything Tory needed for her program and career, including an accommodating staff. Tory loved the campus atmosphere and fondly remembers games, practices, making friends, and helping fundraise for the baseball team. She and Zach enjoy spending time with their four children, William, Alexis, Benjamin, and Lucas.

The youngest of the Kiehl family is Clarissa, who naturally gravitates toward the arts. At the age of 11, she began immersing herself in Edison State's theater group, the Edison Stagelight Players. The group helped her step out of her comfort zone by working on various projects and building relationships with others through her first real community experience. In 2021, Clarissa graduated with an Associate of Arts specializing in Fine Arts. She's currently furthering her education at Edison State by studying accounting. Clarissa remains a friendly face on campus as she helps others navigate college through her position as a College Resource Specialist.

The Office of Alumni Engagement congratulates the Kiehl family on their alumni legacy! Their passion, dedication, and contributions to Edison State are appreciated.



Kim Kiehl

- **Favorite Edison State Memory** Taking classes with her children.
- **Hobbies** Vacationing, gardening, and surrounding herself with family, including seven grandchildren and her sweet Jack Russell Terrier.
- **Advice** "Start! Even if you do not obtain a degree, gaining the knowledge will help. It is right here in your hometown."



Craig Kiehl

- **Favorite Edison State Memory** "Professor Steve Sykes told me once that I was good enough at metrology that I could teach the class and to look him up when I graduated."
- **Hobbies** Watersports, such as barefoot skiing and wake boarding, and trips to Norris Lake.
- **Advice** "Everyone should get as much of this type of education as they possibly can here locally, mature and learn as a person, and then determine their path and proceed accordingly. It has served my family very well!"



Matt Kiehl

- **Favorite Edison State Memory** The involvement he and Zach had in developing the Edison State baseball team. "We were part of the inaugural club team that started it all. We helped generate funds that helped pave the way for what the team is today."
- **Hobbies** Waterskiing, golfing, outdoor activities, and relaxed family time.
- **Advice** "Edison State is a fantastic place to start your collegiate journey. It offers many programs and degrees that will get you a job in the workforce. Their partnerships with other colleges make advanced degrees easier as well."



Zach Kiehl

- **Favorite Edison State Memory** Meeting his wife, Tory. "We met in communications class, and I knew as soon as I saw her, she was the one. We dated, got engaged, married, and now have four kids!"
- **Hobbies** Sports, outdoor activities, waterskiing, playing with his dog, Thor, video games, and family time.
- **Advice** "Focus on life skills, meet professors, and build relationships with fellow students. Edison State is a great place to start! They have a CCP program, which provides a nice transition from high school to a four-year college and real life."



Tory Kiehl

- **Favorite Edison State Memory** Meeting her husband, Zach. "Edison State will always be the place we met and fell in love, so we hold the campus very near to our hearts."
- **Hobbies** Tory still loves to play volleyball, and even did so at a recent Edison State PTA fundraiser tournament with her family.
- **Advice** "Edison State is an excellent choice for those who are looking for a great financial option, smaller and more personal college experience, less intimidating campus, great clubs and athletics to get involved in, and more."



Clarissa Kiehl

- **Favorite Edison State Memory** "It was such a great experience being involved in the play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*."
- **Hobbies** Spending time with her two-year-old Shiba Inu, sewing, cooking, and swimming.
- **Advice** "Ask questions! There are plenty of people who have been here for a long time that can show you where to go, the clubs, submitting applications, etc. Someone is here to help or find out how to help!"

Alumni Highlights



KRYSTAL ANDERSON
2019 & 2021

Krystal Anderson started by attending other universities to find the right fit. After attending The Ohio State University at Lima for a year, she became pregnant with her first child and enrolled at Edison State since it was closer to home and a great way to save costs. She concentrated on social services and science coursework and ultimately earned two degrees in those areas in 2019 and 2021. During her time at Edison State, she interned at Piqua Compassion Network and, after graduation, earned an official position there as a Program Coordinator. Anderson says, "I get to help students who have been facing many struggles that I went through." She manages multiple educational programs covering financial literacy, home management, and more. Anderson now has five children with whom she enjoys spending her time. She shares, "If it weren't for the understanding and compassion I received from faculty, I wouldn't have had the drive and desire to finish school. Now I have two degrees and a career. For anyone thinking about attending Edison State, do it, and you won't regret it!"



KATHLEEN LEESE
2012

Kathleen Leese graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Criminal Justice with highest honors in 2012. She plans to continue more degree work. Leese actively advocates for issues related to elder abuse due to tragedies involving her late father. She and her brother, John Leese, II, who is also an alumnus, are trying to help other seniors and "have spoken at the Ohio State House with the help of State Representative Jena Powell." Leese appreciates all the professors and staff who helped her during her time as a student at Edison State. She served as the President of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and encourages those with a strong GPA to join. She was also active in fundraising for scholarships. She has fond memories of working with former staff member Chip Hare, who was extremely helpful. Leese advises, "I would recommend Edison State for traditional students who will save a lot of money. I would encourage non-traditional students like myself who always wanted to earn a degree to go for their dreams. It's never too late!"



LINDA PREECE
1995

Linda Preece was born and raised in Sidney, Ohio, and has worked with the Shelby County-Sidney Head Start organization for 25 years. She first started as a bus driver and decided to attend Edison State to further her education. After two years at Edison State, Preece graduated with an Associate of Applied Science in Social Services and quickly moved to a Family Advocate position. As a Family Advocate, she makes a positive impact by assisting over 34 families each school year and has already helped a total of over 400 families. Preece states, "Edison State was a driving force to help me realize my potential as a social worker. I always feel the need to help others, and this made it an option to also make connections while being paid." Preece has been married for 32 years and has one daughter who also attended Edison State, received her bachelor's degree, and is currently continuing her education in a Nurse Practitioner program. Preece shares with others to just get started. She says, "A degree comes quickly, and with the FAFSA, grants, and financial assistance, anyone can attend!"



MICHALE RIETHMAN
2008

Originally from Chickasaw, Ohio, Michale Riethman decided to attend Edison State due to the smaller class sizes and being excited to learn about the world of machine trading. Riethman shares, "I had an exceptional experience with teachers who had knowledge of the trade. I also had a lot of hands-on training, which helped me build better confidence and expertise." He earned his certificate in the field in 2008. Riethman first worked as a brake press operator at Midmark, and by gaining experience through classwork, he was promoted to a machinist position and team lead. He now serves as an Associate Manager at Nuvasive and states, "Without the knowledge I received from Edison State, I would not be in the position I am today!" Riethman is married with three children who are all very active in sports, so he enjoys coaching baseball and soccer. As a hobby, he utilizes a CNC router for woodworking projects. His advice for anyone considering Edison State is, "Study hard, work hard, and go after your goals."

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.

Alumni & Friends Announcements

In Memoriam

Daniel Smith of Greenville passed away on August 24, 2022. He was the Head Environmental Service Technician at Edison State for 30 years.

Mackenzie Smith of St. Paris passed away as a result of a motorcycle accident on July 2, 2022, in Darke County. Smith was a former Edison State student and softball player.

Cheryle Sippel of Piqua passed away on July 1, 2022. Cheryle worked at Edison State for six years as a Receptionist and Answer Center Resource Specialist.

Updates

Rich Engelken was named the new Executive Director of Empowering Darke County Youth (EDCY) in July of 2022.

Retirements

Betty Blue Edison State Copy Center Coordinator retired in January 2022.

Susie Miller Edison State College Resource Specialist retired in March 2022.

John Speer Edison State Campus Security Officer retired in March 2022.

Steve Marlowe Edison State Associate Professor of English retired in May 2022.

Josh Scully Edison State Assistant Professor of Chemistry retired in May 2022.

Past Alumni & Friends Events

Alumni and friends played music bingo, took guided tours of DayAir field, participated in on-field batting practice, and enjoyed a ballpark meal during "Evening at the Park" with the Dayton Dragons on August 16. Stay tuned for future invites!



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.

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- 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
- Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning Fund
- Kenneth Yowell President Emeritus Scholarship Fund

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Faculty Updates

PROMOTIONS

Edison State announced the promotion of following faculty members, effective during the 2022-2023 academic year.

The rank of associate professor requires that the individual holds a master's degree in the discipline for which they are hired, demonstrates and can explain characteristics of effective teaching, provides support to students outside of the classroom, demonstrates the ability to provide curriculum leadership, continues professional growth, and provides service to the college. They must complete three full academic years since their last promotion.

Promoted to Associate Professor:



Dr. Thomas Martinez
Anatomy & Physiology



Dr. Brian Murphy
Math & Physics

The rank of assistant professor requires that the individual holds a master's degree in the discipline for which they are hired, demonstrates characteristics of effective teaching, provides support to students outside the classroom, shows initiative in curriculum development, continues professional growth, and participates in college activities. They must complete two full academic years since their last promotion.

Promoted to Assistant Professor:



Brad Lentz
Agriculture

EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS



Dr. Joshua Scully
Assistant Professor of
Chemistry



Levi Smith
Assistant Professor of
Computer Information
Systems

Faculty members Dr. Joshua Scully, of Urbana, and Levi Smith, of Covington, have been named recipients of the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE).

Dr. Scully, who retired from his position as Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the end of May, has been held in high regard by his students and fellow faculty members at Edison State. He has participated in several service activities, including serving on curricular committees, enrollment events for STEM fields, and high school outreach programs. Dr. Scully works hard to ensure the chemistry courses at Edison State have the most current curriculum and equipment, resulting in significant changes over the past few years.

Smith, Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems, is also held in high regard by his students and coworkers. During his time at Edison State, Smith developed the new Interactive Media Program. In an ever-changing computer industry, he was also instrumental in converting Edison State's Computer Information Technology program to a more current option in Computer Information Systems.



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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 business and industry throughout our region.

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