

WIRED

THE ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE OF
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



INSIDE

STATE OF THE
COLLEGE ADDRESS

PROGRAM UPDATE:
PARALEGAL STUDIES

ATHLETIC NEWS

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
CHRISTIANNE BELAIR

In This Issue



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● PAGE 4	FROM THE PRESIDENT
● PAGE 6	UPDATE ON PARALEGAL STUDIES
● PAGE 10	CHARGER ATHLETICS UPDATE
● PAGE 12	THROWBACK
● PAGE 13	BEYOND THE CAMPUS
● PAGE 14	STATE OF THE COLLEGE ADDRESS
● PAGE 15	HOLIDAY EVENING
● PAGE 16	WOMEN IN STEMM EXPO
● PAGE 18	ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT
● PAGE 19	ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS
● PAGE 20	ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE CAMPAIGN
● PAGE 21	ALUMNI & FRIENDS ANNOUNCEMENTS
● PAGE 22	PITCH PIQUA GRANT FINALIST

Upcoming Events

March

- 16 Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle
- 20 Summer & Fall Priority Registration Begins
- 20-25 Spring Break
- 27 Summer & Fall Registration Begins
- 29 FAFSA Workshop | Greenville Campus
- 31 Van Cleve Kids to College
- 31 Edison Stagelight Players' Production *12 Angry Jurors*

April

- 1 & 2 Edison Stagelight Players' Production *12 Angry Jurors*
- 7 Charger Country Night: Softball
- 21 Veteran Services Event: Kayaking
- 28 Charger Country Night: Baseball
- 30 Vet Tech Application Deadline

May

- 19 Commencement
- 24 Mosaic of Community Leadership Conference
- 29 Memorial Day (Campuses Closed)

June

- 5 Summer Semester Begins
- 8 50th Anniversary Kick-Off Celebration

July

- 28 Drive for Scholarships Golf Scramble

For event details, visit www.edisonohio.edu/events.

CHARGER COUNTRY
ALUMNI & FRIENDS NIGHT

SOFTBALL & BASEBALL
SOFTBALL GAME • APRIL 7 AT 3PM
BASEBALL GAME • APRIL 28 AT 1 PM

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



RSVP TO THE OFFICE OF ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT
937.778.7969 • STAYCONNECTED@EDISONOHIO.EDU

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

FRIDAY
9:00 AM
28
JULY

SAVE THE DATE
LUNCH-GOLF-PRIZES

Troy Country Club
1830 Peters Rd., Troy, Ohio 45373

EDISON STATE
50
ANNIVERSARY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

50th Anniversary Celebration Kick-Off Event
FOOD TRUCKS & LIVE MUSIC
JUNE 8, 2023 • 3-8PM • PIQUA CAMPUS

BOLD LEGACY. BRIGHT FUTURE.

WILL YOU BE THE LUCKY ONE WHO TAKES HOME \$10,000?

EdisonState CHARGER ATHLETICS REVERSE RAFFLE
03.16.2023 6:00 PM

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SCAN ME

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT EDISON STATE CHARGERS ATHLETICS

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From the President



Chris Spradlin
President

With the dawning of a new year, 2023 at Edison State Community College promises to be a time of change and new endeavors. The College welcomed a new president on January 1 and will celebrate its 50th anniversary later in 2023, giving us the chance to honor the bold legacy of those who have served over the years as faculty and staff members at Edison State while also looking ahead to a bright future. The College will launch a new three-year strategic plan in July, which will then pave the way for us to prove our fulfillment of the

Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) criteria for accreditation in preparation for a comprehensive re-accreditation visit from the HLC in early 2024. Each of these opportunities will invariably present challenges for Edison State, but with our commitment to excellence, innovation, modernization, efficiency, and focus as our intentional characteristics, the College will be well positioned to overcome any and all challenges the future may hold.

Excellence never goes out of style, and Edison State will always be crucial to the development of our communities if we pursue excellence in all that we do. This applies most importantly to the educational experience we provide for our students. We will pursue instructional excellence through strong academic standards, state-of-the-art learning environments, and the professional development of our faculty. Students will receive outstanding support throughout their time with Edison State, enabling them to be successful inside and outside the classroom.

Innovation is critical to Edison State's efforts to prepare students for the workforce of tomorrow. The College must be adaptive and forward thinking with regard to its programs of study and instructional models, and we are already developing new ways to ensure our students are career-ready upon graduation. Perhaps most notably, we will continue to evolve our partnerships

with local employers in order to meet their workforce development needs. Edison State will become known for its responsive and innovative approach to higher education in support of the citizens of Darke, Miami, Preble, and Shelby counties.

Modernization provides the infrastructure for excellence and innovation. At Edison State, we will continue to upgrade our teaching and learning model and environment so that the best of modern methods and modern technology are blended with effective traditional approaches and outstanding faculty to achieve excellence. Our learning spaces and instructional equipment will be consistently modern across all four of our campuses, establishing Edison State as an incubator for new ideas in the region.

Efficiency may be an obvious goal for an organization, but it is an important tool for allocating resources to key initiatives. Through the strategic planning process, Edison State has already developed a plan to review our business and operational processes in an effort to save time and money that can then be diverted to the projects under our new strategic plan. This work is a prime example of the College's commitment to its employee core value statement on stewardship: "We will be responsible stewards of our resources."

Focus can be an organization's most powerful characteristic but is often the

Excellence. Innovation. Moderniza



most difficult to achieve. Edison State will use its 2023–2026 Strategic Plan to focus the work of faculty and staff in three key areas: Funding Innovation, Supporting Instructional Excellence, and Demonstrating Value Through Outreach. These priorities will serve as a filter for all initiatives we consider, helping us to avoid spending valuable resources on non-critical projects. The 2023–2026 Strategic Plan flows from Edison State’s mission, vision, and employee core values, all of which point to student success as the heart of the College’s efforts.

2023 will surely bring exciting opportunities and unique challenges to Edison State, and these will be met

with our commitment to Excellence, Innovation, Modernization, Efficiency, and Focus. We will build on our bold legacy of the last 50 years and look forward to a bright future while always being driven by the closing words of the Edison State Mission Statement: to “enable students to complete their educational goals and realize their dreams.” For it is the business of helping others to realize their dreams in which we happily work and gain the satisfaction that what we do is truly life changing.

Chris Spradlin, President

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ation. Efficiency. Focus.



Update on Paralegal Studies



Enrique Rivera-Cerezo, J.D., Assistant Professor of Business and Business Law, provides instruction to students in his class.

STEP INTO A CAREER IN THE LEGAL FIELD

Those interested in working in the legal field can develop essential skills through the Paralegal Studies program at Edison State Community College. The program prepares students to work as a paralegal, a position included in the top 10 best careers requiring an associate degree.

Led by Enrique Rivera-Cerezo, J.D., Assistant Professor of Business and Business Law, with additional faculty members Justin Lopez, J.D., and Ted Ramirez, J.D., the Paralegal Studies program at Edison State is committed to helping those interested in becoming paralegals learn the skills needed



Paralegal Studies Faculty & Staff

- Enrique Rivera-Cerezo, J.D., Assistant Professor of Business and Business Law
- Justin Lopez, J.D., Faculty Member
- Ted Ramirez, J.D., Faculty Member

to aid attorneys professionally and ethically in the practice of law. Under the attorney's supervision, paralegals perform substantive tasks that require the knowledge of legal principles and procedures.

"I've been happy with the classes I've taken within the Paralegal Studies department instructed by Enrique," said student Shawna Leigeber. "I feel he really cares about students' educational needs and focuses on how to keep you critically thinking. The assignments are essential to moving you into a fulfilling career in the legal field. He often made sure students were reaching out to him if they were struggling with a task, and we were never made to feel we were an imposition on his time."

Dedicated to updating its technology, legal libraries, and curriculum to meet the ever-changing demands of the legal field, the Paralegal Studies program at Edison State prepares students to support the work of attorneys. However, Rivera-Cerezo says, "The program

isn't only for students who want to work as paralegals. Anyone wanting an introduction to legal studies can benefit from this program. Students can also apply what they've learned to pursue other careers or educational goals, such as setting up a foundation for law school."

Students in the program will learn substantive and procedural aspects of the types of law practiced in Ohio, including business, domestic, probate, litigation, and real estate, while developing essential research, communication, and writing skills. Edison State's Paralegal Studies program also offers elective classes in criminal and constitutional law, an optional internship experience, and access to its library of legal resources.

"This program has enlightened me and helped me form useful skills that I'll need moving forward in my career," said student Amanda Napier.

Abby Purdy, another student, added, "Edison State's Paralegal Studies program is very supportive, from

helpful professors to a curriculum that emphasizes practical workplace skills."

"The paralegal program offered a variety of classes in many different areas of law and provided exposure to several attorneys, which has proven to be helpful in networking," said alumna Diane Matthews, who currently works as a probate paralegal. "Learning Puritas Springs software in the probate class has been extremely beneficial."

In addition to working as a paralegal, graduates of the program can also seek positions such as claim examiner, documents clerk, law office manager, legal assistant, legal technician, and law librarian. The skills learned through the program will prepare students to retrieve information from public records, prepare evidence for civil trials, interview clients, and draft legal documents.

"Being enrolled in Edison State's paralegal program has helped me succeed in my job," said alumna Avery Moore. "My education has helped me receive several promotions."

Their Experience



Shawna Leigeber
Current Student

I have been happy with the classes that I have taken instructed by Enrique. I feel he really cares about the students' educational needs and focuses on how to keep you critically thinking. The assignments are essential to moving you into a fulfilling career in the legal field. He often made sure that the students were reaching out to him if they were struggling with a task, and we were never made to feel that we were an imposition on his time.

Abby Purdy
Current Student

Edison State's Paralegal Studies program is very supportive, from the helpful professors to the curriculum that emphasizes practical workplace skills.



Amanda Napier
Current Student

This program has enlightened me and helped me to form useful skills that I will need moving forward in my career.

RECRUITING YOUR FUTURE



The Edison State Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning recently hosted approximately 85 representatives from over 40 area businesses during the "Recruiting Your Future" event held on the Piqua Campus.

Held in partnership with the Ohio College Tech Prep-West Region, this free event helped participants better understand the process involved in recruiting a talented workforce.

Participants enjoyed breakfast while networking with other professionals and learning about the best approach to attracting young workforce talent and keeping them employed.

Throughout the event, attendees heard from representatives of:

- Edison State Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning

- Ohio Department of Commerce
- Ohio Department of Education
- Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education
- Upper Valley Career Center
- West Central Ohio Manufacturing Partnership
- Workforce Partnership of Shelby County

A best practice panel representing companies that currently employ high school and college students also provided insight into their processes and integration of these populations of learners into their workforce.

Experience



Diane Mathews
Class of '14

The paralegal program offered a variety of classes in many different areas of law and also provided exposure to several different attorneys, which has proven to be helpful in networking. Learning Puritas Springs software in the probate class been extremely beneficial. Plus, Edison State is accredited by the Ohio Bar Association.

Avery Moore
Class of '22

Being enrolled in Edison State's paralegal program has helped me succeed in my job. My education has helped me receive several promotions.



Barbara Guerra
Class of '18

Edison State's paralegal program has a respected and experienced staff. The skills and knowledge I acquired gave me the tools and encouragement to succeed in a law office.

STUDENT VETERAN APPRECIATION EVENT



Edison State student veterans were treated to lunch and gift cards to Meijer thanks to the generosity of the Bob Woodruff Foundation and the Craig Newark Philanthropies.

Edison State proudly serves Military Veterans, Active Duty Military, Reservists, and National Guard. We thank them for their service and the opportunity to return the service they earned.

To learn more about Veteran Services provided at Edison State and the steps to get started, visit www.edisonohio.edu/veterans.

Charger Athletics Update

A YEAR OF REBUILDING

The Edison State Community College men's and women's basketball teams returned to the court in November with many new student-athletes.

Head Coach Tim McMahon leads the Lady Chargers for the ninth season, bringing over three decades of coaching expertise to the program. McMahon began his coaching career at Lehman High School and Botkins High School. At Botkins, he advanced to the assistant varsity coach for the girls' basketball team, where he helped lead the team to two S.C.A.L. League Championships and the title of Regional Runners-Up. McMahon led the Lady Chargers to a conference title both last season and in 2020. The team also advanced to the NJCAA National Championship tournament in 2022, winning their first matchup. McMahon was named OCCAC Coach of the Year in 2022.

The Lady Chargers returned to the court with 13 incoming freshmen. McMahon has seen good things throughout the season.

"We're a young team with all freshmen," McMahon said, "but we're working every day to continue to learn our system and build team chemistry. We've had a good season so far."

Joining McMahon is Doug Martin as the assistant coach. Martin has over 30 years of coaching experience; this is his sixth year as Edison State's assistant women's basketball coach. Previously the varsity girls' basketball coach at Anna High School, he helped to lead the Lady Rockets to a State Championship in 2011, State Runner-Up in 2012, and State Championship in 2013.



Paxton Hunley



Montana Cottrell

Leading the men's basketball team for the fifth year is Head Coach Kyle Vanover, who has over 20 years of coaching experience. He has coached at Miami East, Greenville, Lehman, and Graham schools and had winning seasons with all. Under Vanover's leadership, the Chargers produced records for most wins in a single season with 25, best home record of 18-0, and best finish in school history last year with a Region 12 Runner-Up. Coach Vanover was also named OCCAC Co-Coach of the Year for the 2021-22 season.

The men's team has shown a different style of play this year, and Vanover is excited to see how they succeed.

"This year is a bit different for me in the 20 years I've been coaching," said Vanover. "Things have been working out well in our games, and I'm excited about the explosiveness we've added to our new style this year."

The Chargers returned to the court with five sophomores and 14 freshmen.

"Our sophomores on the team have done a great job leading so far, not just in basketball but also in the classroom," said Vanover. "The biggest attribute they're bringing this year is their experience, and they've stepped

up to share what they struggled with as freshmen so the incoming freshmen don't have to struggle with the same things."

He added, "This is probably the hardest-working group of freshmen we've ever had. Their attitude, character, and willingness to learn are great. They've been showing they're a team-first group, which is the culture we're always trying to build here."

Assistant coaches Craig Maschino and Matt Gross join Vanover in leading the men's team. Maschino is returning for his fourth year as an assistant coach and brings nearly 20 years of coaching experience to the program. Gross has a decade of coaching experience, five of which are at an elevated AAU level.

Edison State's basketball teams compete in the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) and are Division II members of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA).

LEARN MORE

Visit athletics.edisonohio.edu for the latest news, player stats, upcoming games, and results.



2022-23 Women's Basketball Roster

#	Name	Year	Pos.	High School
1	Paxton Hunley	FR	G	Miami East
2	Matea Bartel	FR	G/F	Colerain
4	Madalynn Hughes	FR	G	Troy
5	Raegan Beverly	FR	G	Clermont NE
11	Rori Hunley	FR	G	Miami East
12	Makenzee Maschino	FR	G	Troy
13	Dana Evans	FR	G	West Clermont
20	Ella Hoehne	FR	F	Russia
21	Taj Pewett	FR	G	Colerain

Head Coach Tim McMahon
 Assistant Coach Doug Martin



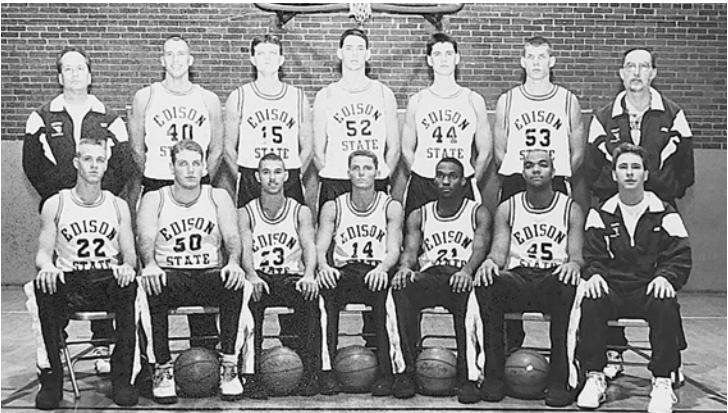
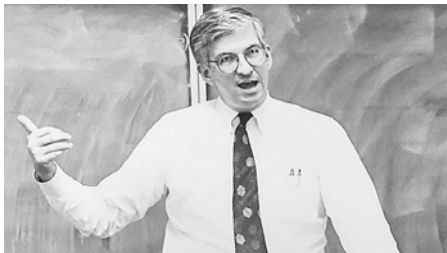
2022-23 Men's Basketball Roster

#	Name	Year	Pos.	High School
3	Abdulai Jalloh	FR	F	Westerville North
4	Montana Cottrell	SO	PG	Lockland
5	Caleb Iheukwu	FR	G	Westerville North
10	Jesse Dixon	FR	G	W. Portsmouth
11	Yero Diallo	SO	G	Lockland
14	Isaiah Phillips	FR	G	Frisco
15	Devonte Curry	FR	G	Briggs
20	Mouhamed Sidibe	FR	F	Flight Acad. Prep
22	Jaydon Litten	FR	G	Versailles
23	Brendan Crump	FR	G	Stivers Arts
24	Landyn Henry	FR	G	Troy
33	Elias Richardson	SO	F	Scott County

Head Coach Kyle Vanover
 Assistant Coach Matt Gross
 Assistant Coach Craig Maschino

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.

MAKING CONNECTIONS



Caleb Means, Edison State Enrollment Manager, connects with alumni and community members during the Miami East High School versus Bethel High School football game. The Edison State team tailgated at six local competitions throughout the 2022 football season.

GIRL SCOUTS IN STEM



Trisha Elliott, Edison State Workforce Development Coordinator, led an activity focused on teamwork during *Imagine Your STEM Future!* The Girl Scouts of Western Ohio event was geared toward girls in grades 6–12 to get them excited about working in STEM fields.

CHAIRMAN'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE



Photograph by Sharon Elaine Photography

Edison State Community College was named the 2022 recipient of the Tipp City Chamber of Commerce Chairman's Award of Excellence. The award is in recognition of an educational institution that has demonstrated exceptional growth, service, and distinction in our community.

CAPABILITIES VISIT



Students in the Edison State Physical Therapist Assistant (PTA) program were honored to welcome a group of adults from Capabilities, Inc. The PTA students practiced balance tests and then played various balance games with the group. At the end of their visit, the guests were treated to Edison State t-shirts.

FLOAT, LEARN, FEAST



The Edison State Student Senate's Float, Learn, and Feast event brought together students, faculty, staff, and friends of Edison State for an educational trip down the Great Miami River in Piqua. Participants also heard an educational presentation, enjoyed lunch, and received a free t-shirt.

State of the College Address



Dr. Doreen Larson and Chris Spradlin present.



Thom and Patricia Robinson, along with Dr. Larson, cut the ribbon to the renovated theater before the event.

The fifth annual State of the College address was held on Wednesday, October 12, to update the community with an overview of the accomplishments, strategic initiatives, and vision for the future of Edison State.

During the presentation, the success of Edison State was attributed to its "secret sauce," with ingredients such as enrollment, student success, college life, and quality facilities.

Looking toward what comes next for student success at Edison State, President Chris Spradlin highlighted the College's two most recent 100% tuition waivers: the College Credit Plus/Career-Technology and 25&UP tuition waivers. He then spoke about the cradle-to-career program.

"That is a special program we've become involved with," Spradlin said. "The West Central Ohio Regional Education Partnership is a group that, through grant support, has developed a committee that's looking at a continuum of care for students all the way down into the kindergarten level and helping them to connect with careers."

Spradlin added that Edison State is always looking to see what programs should be added to meet the workforce needs of the community. The College is currently developing a Respiratory Care program, as well as a bachelor's degree in nursing.

College life is also critical to the success of Edison State students. During the presentation, resources available to students, including the Emergency Assistance Fund and Charger Food Stations, as well as activities such as the Float Learn Feast event, Halloween contests, and athletics events were highlighted.

"Growing college life coming off a pandemic and seeing a lot of our enrollment go online and hybrid is a challenge," said Spradlin. "We know that in order to keep students engaged and successful, we need to provide them with a robust college life on campus."

To wrap up the presentation, the final ingredient of the "secret sauce" was revealed to be the College's dedication to student pride. Student needs have always been a priority of the college. Most recently, efforts have been made to improve facilities, increase security, and an effort to adapt to the needs of an evolving student population.

The College has added its own Department of Public Safety, invested in updating the security system at all four campuses, and installed ionization systems at three campuses, including the Piqua Campus. Edison State now has dog-friendly campuses and has started a holiday lighting project as a way to give back to the community.

Looking to the future, Spradlin said, "We're working on an expansion of our nursing wing, approximately 6,000 square feet that will open up the opportunity for the nursing program to expand their cohort size and give them new space for labs and check-offs for students."

"We're also partnering with the Upper Valley Career Center on a renovation of classrooms to support the Criminal Justice program and Peace Officer Academy," Spradlin continued. "We'll add an additional lab space that will allow students to conduct mock investigations and home searches."

Other facilities projects include adding two new locker rooms for the athletics program and providing general upgrades to classrooms.

Leading up to the State of the College address, Thom and Patricia Robinson of the Robinson Foundation cut the ribbon to a new and improved Robinson Theater. The theater was recently improved with updated technology and modern amenities.

Watch the State of the College address or download the accompanying brochure at www.edisonohio.edu/sotc.

Holiday Evening at Edison State



NEARLY \$58K RAISED FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The Edison Foundation held its 25th annual Holiday Evening at Edison State Community College on Wednesday, November 30, raising \$57,926. Over 430 guests attended the annual event, where they enjoyed heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, the company of others, and great music from regional performing artists.

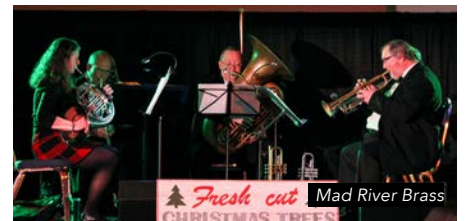
Proceeds from the event help The Edison Foundation assist Edison State in meeting its education and community service goals by providing resources to advance student success. This is accomplished through scholarships, student emergency assistance, employee mini-grants, and capital improvement.

Organized as an indoor music festival with three distinct stages, 2022 Holiday Evening featured simultaneous performances from Generations Big Band, The Mad River Brass, and Zach Nelson. Guests were invited to walk to and from various areas on campus to enjoy the performances, which included a variety of original songs, covers, and classic holiday tunes. The Charger Music Society, comprised of Edison

State faculty, students, and community members, performed prior to the event.

Also contributing to the event's success were the event's committee members and 65-plus volunteers, AVI Chef Don Walters and his team, Heidelberg Distributing, Moeller Brew Barn, Winans Chocolates & Coffees, Almost Blooming, The Light Fantastic, Production Solutions, Inc., VPP Industries, the Edison State Police Department, and the Edison State maintenance and marketing teams.

The 2022 Holiday Evening at Edison State was made possible by Artist Sponsors Edison State, Emerson, and Premier Health/UVMC; Gold Sponsors AIM Media Midwest, Credent Wealth Management, Dan and Jill Francis, Kettering Health, and Park National Bank; Silver Sponsors Digital Avenue, Doreen and Len Larson, Fifth Third, Tom and Sandy Shoemaker, Troy Holiday Inn Express, Wayne HealthCare, and Wilson Health; and Bronze Sponsors American Trim, Baird/Ganley Families, Crown Equipment Corporation, Ed and Kay Curry, Ever Heart Hospice, Ferguson Construction Company, Franklin University, French Oil Mill Machinery Company, Greenville Federal, Greenville National Bank, Hartzell Propeller, HORAN Associates, MAPSYS, Inc.,



Marias Technology, McCulloch Felger Fite and Gutmann Co., L.P.A., Medical Mutual, Midmark Corporation, Mutual Federal, OVIS, Ray and Bettye Laughlin, Rick and Beth Hanes, Stan Evans, VPP Industries, Wayne HealthCare Foundation, Western Ohio Cut Stone, and Wright Patt Credit Union.

To learn more or view photos, visit www.edisonohio.edu/Holiday-Evening.

Women In STEMM Expo



Former Edison State President Doreen Larson addresses a crowd of over 400 young women from surrounding schools during the 15th annual Women In STEMM Expo.



Over 400 students ranging from sixth to 12th grades from 27 schools across eight counties engaged in a day of learning and fun at Edison State Community College on Friday, November 4, for the 15th annual Women In STEMM Expo. The daylong program is designed to help boost the interest of young women in the science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) career fields.

While on campus, each of the girls chose three breakout sessions to attend in the morning with topics ranging from crime scene investigation, medical lab technology, and information technology to chemistry, engineering, and mathematics.

Many of the day's sessions focused on topics that are relevant to the girls' daily lives. "Invest \$ Today = A Brighter Tomorrow," led by Mutual Federal Bank employees, helped participants discover the financial choices needed to make tomorrow successful and showed them how to take control of their financial destiny.

A total of 25 breakout sessions were available throughout the morning, including a coding session led by the Ohio State University–Miami County Extension Office. Participants learned how to operate, drive, and perform basic coding using programmable robot balls called Sphero Bots.

The afternoon portion of the event was dedicated to STEMM career demonstrations and included over 25 tables with area businesses for students to visit to learn more about various career fields.

At the end of the event, winning photo entries from the Women In STEMM Expo Photo Contest were announced. To enter the photo contest, participants were asked to dress the part and set the scene as they photographed themselves in a STEMM career scenario. A total of 20 students entered the contest, and the first-place winner received a Fire HD tablet.

PARTICIPATING EMPLOYERS

Representatives from Biller's Stamps & Engraving, Bullen Ultrasonics, Inc., Crown Equipment Corporation, Crown MTC Automation Group, Edison State, Emerson, Greenville National Bank, Hobart Institute of Welding Technology, Inventor's Council of Dayton, Lowe's Home Center, Marias Technology, Midmark Corporation, Mutual Federal Bank, Ohio State University–Miami County Extension Office, Premier Health Cardiopulmonary, Neurodiagnostics & Sleep Center, Premier Health Sports Medicine, Premier Health Urgent Care, Premier Health Wound Care, Premier Health–Surgical Services, Premier Work Force Development, Raymath Manufacturing, Rittal's Women in Manufacturing, Transfrvr, Upper Valley CTC, and Wayne HealthCare provided their expertise for the day's breakout sessions and interactive career demonstrations.

Helping Students in Need



Dr. Jessica Chambers, Dean of Student Engagement, restocks the Piqua Campus Charger Station

In 2019, Edison State Community College joined the nationwide movement to provide a food source to support students who may be distracted from their studies by hunger.

"In our daily interactions with students, we know how many responsibilities they are juggling and that money can be tight for many of them," said Dr. Jessica Chambers, Dean

of Student Engagement at Edison State.

"It might not be all the time that students need access to the Charger Station, but life happens, so we want to give them an opportunity to have something to eat so they can focus on their education."

Since its establishment as a single cabinet on a desk in a hallway, the Piqua Charger Station has expanded into its own dedicated room on the Piqua Campus. The Eaton, Greenville, and Troy campuses also offer Charger Stations for students in their student lounge areas.

Charger Stations currently have snack items available for students to grab a quick bite on their way to class or pick up ingredients for a meal later. This free resource is available to students during regular hours of operation.

QUICK FACTS

- The Charger Stations are currently 100% funded by local foundation grants and internal donations.
- During the Fall 2022 semester, students received 16,760 items, from food and hygiene/household products to baby products and school supplies.
- The top five most popular items include cookies, granola bars, bananas, fruit grain bars, and cracker packages.

MAKE A DONATION

Items may be placed in the designated bins at the Piqua Campus in rooms 160 and 165 or given to the front desk at each regional campus. Money or gift cards can be given to Dr. Jessica Chambers or Dr. Amanda Bylcznski.

Marias Technology

Representatives of Edison State recently visited Marias Technology in Covington, Ohio. While on-site, the group took a tour of the complex, which includes office space, a coffee shop, retail space, and a restaurant. Following the tour, President and CEO Chris Haines gave a presentation and answered questions. Haines noted the large number of Edison State alumni employed by the company.

Independently owned by the Haines family, Marias Technology services have been specifically tailored to insurance carriers and MGAs. Those services include software testing and implementations, as well as ancillary supporting services.



Edison State Alumni Employed by Marias Technology

Front Row [L to R]: Rachel McCurdy, Carmynn Frysinger, Aimee Keeler, Bailey Tipps, Wendy Pierron, Laura Bertini, Tiffany Hoelscher, Kaitlin Walling, and Courtney Vogel
Back Row [L to R]: Bryson Church, Corey Haines, Leisa Plank, Christina Schultz, Michelle Peterson, Milli Barhorst, and Betsy Roberts



Christianne Belair | Photograph by Jessica King

Alumni Spotlight

Christianne Belair: Dayton's Best Optometrist

Edison State's very own alumna Christianne Belair was declared the 2022 winner for "Best Optometrist" by "Best of Dayton!" She currently works at Gemini Eye Care, providing eye care for the greater Dayton area.

Belair was first introduced to Edison State by participating in the dual enrollment program now called College Credit Plus while she attended Tippecanoe High School. She chose Edison State because it had an impressive reputation and she received strong family encouragement. The physical location and partnership with her high school made enrolling at Edison State very convenient as well.

Attending Edison State helped Belair become more independent and mature. She shares, "I got a chance to figure out who I was and reinvent myself. I made friends with those who were older than me and who came from different backgrounds."

Belair worked diligently and graduated from Edison State with her associate degree at the same time she completed high school in 2008. After accomplishing this great feat, she then enrolled at Wright State University and hit the ground running there due to her valuable experience at Edison State. She says, "While some students were still acclimating to college expectations in their first year at the university, I felt well prepared."

It took some time for her to discover exactly what she wanted to do. From photojournalism, business, and early childhood education to considering becoming a therapist, Belair deliberated many professional possibilities. She worked full time as a server at a restaurant while juggling Wright State's heavy course load. Eventually, her mother's friend introduced her to a job opportunity at Gemini Eye Care. Belair then became an optometric technician where she assisted with testing patients, conducted training on lenses, and worked the front desk.

It was after several academic program changes and being introduced to this new technician position that she found her passion for the optometry field. Through that role, she discovered there is "a lot more to optometry than I knew—diseases you manage, and you get to build relationships." This led her to continue her education, and she ultimately graduated from Southern College of Optometry in Memphis, Tennessee, in 2019.

Belair received a job offer for an optometrist position with Gemini Eye Care before she even graduated. Along with being excited about that professional opportunity, she also missed her family and friends; so, she and her husband, Brett, decided to move back to a neighborhood in Dayton, Ohio.

They live with their two dogs and enjoy hiking, traveling, and supporting their community by dining and shopping locally.

Belair loves her work at Gemini Eye Care. She treasures "maintaining and creating relationships with my patients. I like troubleshooting and putting pieces together. Eye health is related to systemic health. I enjoy talking to other doctors in various specialty areas to make sure everyone is working together to give the best care possible for the patient. It's a fun job!"

When reflecting, Belair shares that Edison State was the place she "felt a sense of community." She appreciates the attention professors gave to students because of the small class sizes. One of her favorite professors was referred to as "Dr. Bob," and he taught music and humanities classes. She fondly remembers him going above and beyond to help students and incorporating good anecdotes into the classroom.

She also reiterates that her time at Edison State gave her "a terrific education and saved me a significant amount of money."

We're grateful that Belair returned to Ohio to help others within the community. We appreciate the valuable work she contributes every day, and Edison State congratulates her on her success!

Alumni Highlights



CAITLYN SMITH
2017

In 2017, Caitlyn (Applegate) Smith began the CCP program with Edison State as a sophomore in high school to focus on general education courses. She graduated in May 2022 with a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Indiana University Kokomo. Now a Registered Behavior Technician, she works with kids on the autism spectrum and is enrolled in a behavioral master's degree program. She shares that her advisor, Stacey Bean, "was amazing. She helped me decide what I wanted to do and why I had a passion for helping." Applegate loved her professors and appreciated how helpful they all were. She would like to tell anyone considering attending Edison State that, "It truly is the best thing you could do for yourself and your education. This was the best decision I made and will cherish it forever, and I am forever grateful for the help from Edison State." Applegate married her husband, Kevin, in December 2022 and has a dog named Roo.



MICAH BARGA
2013

After graduating from Edison State in 2013 with his Computer Information Technology Games Programming degree, Micah Barga started his job as an Assistant Deputy Clerk at the Darke County Clerk of Courts in Greenville, Ohio. He also works part-time as a crew member at Taco Bell. Barga originally chose Edison State as it was an affordable way to turn what he already loved into a career. He believes that as a student at Edison State, he learned many valuable skills for his career, such as how to build and program software from scratch. Barga would often complete logic puzzles as homework assignments for his programming classes, which he says helped him learn how to think more logically. Barga has created his own animation on his Facebook page, "The Adventures of Micah," which he one day hopes to make into a complete series.



ANGIE BECKSTEDT
2011

Angie Beckstedt graduated from Edison State in 2011 with an Associate of Arts. She continued her studies at the University of Northwestern Ohio and received her bachelor's degree in business. Beckstedt then began her educational journey to becoming a hairstylist, which has now been her career for nine years. She chose to begin her education at Edison State due to the small class sizes, which were similar to what she was used to in high school. Beckstedt was a member of Edison State's women's basketball team and is still very good friends with many of her teammates, even after more than a decade. She shares, "We had a special group and a wonderful coach—Kim Rank was one of the best. One of the best memories was beating Cincinnati State in triple overtime: 133-131." Being part of a team prepared her to work well with her coworkers now. She says, "Edison State is a great choice, especially if you like a small school setting. The relationships are better, and everyone is closer."



TIFFANY THOMAS
2008

Tiffany Thomas decided Edison State was the best fit for her as it was close to home and affordable. She graduated in 2008 after completing the Computer Information Technology program. She then continued her education and ultimately earned a Master of Business Administration at Bluffton University. While preparing to take the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) exam, Thomas completed the preparatory class offered at Edison State and passed the exam on her first try! She now works as an HR Coordinator for the Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission. She thinks back fondly of her time at Edison State and has partnered with the Center for Workforce Development since completing the CIT program. She advises, "Explore Edison State as a first option for higher education. The tuition savings and connections are valuable."

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.

Illuminate the Future



Alham Partee

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College will launch its annual “Illuminate the Future” Community Scholarship Campaign beginning on March 1, 2023. The campaign exists 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 2022 “Illuminate the Future” Community Scholarship Campaign helped to support two full-time and two part-time students like Alham Partee of Casstown, Ohio. Partee is a student in the registered nursing program at Edison State. Upon graduating, Partee plans to work as a pediatric nurse while pursuing a Bachelor’s of Science in Nursing from the University of Cincinnati.

In a letter to the donors who made her scholarship possible, Partee expressed her gratitude, stating, “The Illuminate the Future Community Scholarship will help alleviate my financial burden, which will allow me to dedicate my time to my studies. Your generosity has motivated

me to contribute to my community and help others. In the future, I hope to help students achieve their goals just as you have helped me to achieve mine.”

The Edison Foundation invites community members to help ensure Edison State students continue to be well-equipped for their future life dreams and demands. For information on how to give to the “Illuminate the Future” Community Scholarship Campaign, contact The Edison Foundation by emailing foundation@edisonohio.edu, calling **937.778.7805**, or visiting www.edisonohio.edu/foundation.

Since its inception in 1993, The Edison Foundation has raised over \$2.1 million in scholarships for Edison State students.

Supporting Funds

STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND

The Edison Foundation has joined together with Edison State Community College to provide funding for student emergency needs. The newly formed fund is a critical lifeline of support that provides immediate aid to students threatened as a result of unforeseen circumstances.

Students across all of Edison State’s campuses need your help. Please consider supporting our Student Emergency Assistance Fund to keep our students on track for the future. Donations can be made online through The Edison Foundation at www.edisonohio.edu/Foundation via PayPal, check, or credit card. Please make payments to The Edison Foundation and designate Student Emergency Assistance Fund.

MINI-GRANT PROGRAM

The Edison Foundation mini-grant program is designed for employees of Edison State to utilize in the advancement of the college mission and strategic plan. The Edison Foundation announced a distribution of \$9,752 for fall 2022:

- \$550 to Andrea Francis for the Marketing Department
- \$1,000 to Veronica French for Women In STEMM Expo
- \$867.60 to Rhonda Rich and Melissa Eve for Bridging the Digital Divide
- \$1,000 to Dr. Jessica Chambers for Student Resource Center & Pantry
- \$1,000 to Chuck Whitney for Campus Greenery

- \$1,000 to Elizabeth DuBois for Human Resources Revamp
- \$1,000 to Rachel Carlisle & Erica Wentworth for Event Excitement Project
- \$335 to Vickie Kirk for Indiana Pathology Images
- \$1,000 to Marva Archibald for Diversity Committee Speaker
- \$1,000 to Roger Fulk for the Gas Card Project
- \$1,000 to Erin Reese for Microscopes for Biology Dept.

Please consider supporting our staff and faculty through the mini-grant program. Donations can be made through The Edison Foundation. Please designate Mini-Grant Program.

Alumni & Friends Announcements

In Memoriam

Diana Hall of Piqua passed away on Oct. 13, 2022. She received her associate degree in computers.

Vince Miller of Huber Heights passed away on Oct. 30, 2022. Vince was an adjunct math instructor who taught at Edison State since 1980.

Retirements

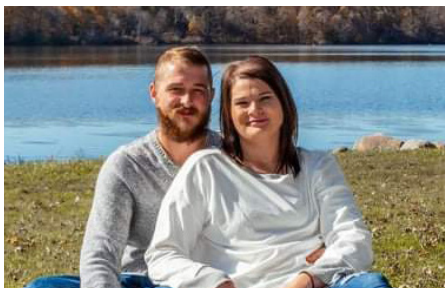
Doreen Larson Edison State President retired in Dec. 2022.

Harry Lawhorn Edison State Network Services Director retired in Dec. 2022.

Rebecca Pepiot Edison State Assistant Registrar retired in Sept. 2022.

Chuck Steel Edison State Assistant CIO retired in Dec. 2022.

Marriage



Brittany & Logan Walters of Piqua were married on Oct. 1, 2022. The Walters are alumni and were employed by Edison State.

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.

Charger Country Night Events

Alumni and friends came together to cheer on the Charger volleyball and basketball teams during the latest Charger Country Nights. The groups enjoyed free admission to the game, food and drinks, Edison State alumni t-shirts, and the company of others.



PLEASE CUT ALONG LINE



ILLUMINATE THE FUTURE DONATION



YES! *I want to support Edison State students!*

I WOULD LIKE TO DONATE \$ _____

DESIGNATE MY DONATION FOR

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

CONTINUED ON BACK

Please complete both sides and mail to
THE EDISON FOUNDATION
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Questions? Call 937.778.7805 or email foundation@edisonohio.edu.

The Edison Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt organization. Federal ID 31-1379781

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Foundation Board Updates



Stan Evans



Brooke Ruhenkamp



Matt Verhotz

The Edison Foundation recently nominated Stan Evans as an honorary board member.

Evans' ties to Edison State date back to 1976, when he began participating in and supporting many programs. He joined The Edison Foundation Board of Directors in 2008 and served two terms that ended in 2014. He then served again from 2015 to 2021. He served as Chairman of The Edison Foundation Board from July 2016 to June 2018.

He has served on the Business Affairs Committee, Board Affairs Committee, Planned Giving Committee, and Holiday Evening at Edison State Committee. He was Chair of the Holiday Evening Committee in 2018 and Co-Chair in 2021.

The Edison Foundation also welcomed Brooke Ruhenkamp and Matt Verhotz as board members this year.

Brooke Ruhenkamp, representing Darke County, has expertise in human resources, leadership, and public

speaking and served as a Fort Loramie Liberty Days committee member. A former Edison State student, Ruhenkamp states that the classes she completed with the College allowed her to mature and grow. She later obtained her bachelor's degree at Bowling Green State University in just five semesters and now works as a Human Resources Business Partner at Midmark in Versailles.

Residing in Shelby County, Matt Verhotz brings his experience in financial management, analytics, and public speaking to The Edison Foundation board. He is a Commercial Lender with Park National Bank in Piqua and serves as a board member for Sidney Alive and New Choices, Inc.

The board oversees The Edison Foundation as it assists Edison State in meeting its educational and community service goals by providing resources to advance student success.

\$50,000 Grant Finalist

Edison State Community College is proud to announce that it will compete as a finalist in The Piqua Community Foundation's Pitch Piqua charitable grant pitch competition on March 2. The initiative features a \$50,000 top prize for the finalist nonprofit organization with the highest scoring project benefiting Piqua.

Three finalists were selected by a committee of Foundation board members and donors through a written application and semi-finalist interview process. The finalist teams have been developing their concepts alongside The Foundation since the summer of 2022. Topics covered include project scope, budgeting, capacity-building, and storytelling presentation skills.

The finalist teams are now ready to present their concepts at a community event from 4:30 to 7 p.m., Thursday, March 2, 2023, at the Fort Piqua Plaza Banquet Center. Event tickets are \$20 and include event entry, hors d'oeuvres, and two drink tickets for the cash bar.

The teams will present to a crowd of supportive community members as well as a panel of four in-person judges representing various sectors of our community. All finalists will also be eligible for pass-through designated donations made by community members, who collectively act as the fifth judge.

The judges will evaluate the project concepts on their impact on Piqua residents, evidence of a demonstrated community need, readiness for launch, sustainability of the project, and quality of the presentation.

The top-scoring organization will secure the \$50,000 grant award for its proposed project. The other two finalist organizations will each be awarded a \$5,000 unrestricted award. The funding for the grant awards is supplied by the fundholders of The Foundation.

To purchase event tickets, vote for your favorite finalist organization(s), and to learn more about how Pitch

Piqua and The Piqua Community Foundation benefit our community, visit piquacommunityfoundation.org/pitchpiqua.

VOTE NOW

You won't want to miss us compete for a \$50,000 grant at Pitch Piqua, but if you can't be there, you can still vote with a designated pass-through donation of just \$10. Scan the code below to cast your online vote for our project, "Prepared," which will benefit the community, our Criminal Justice program, and Peace Officer Academy.



Leaders Receive Training



The 2023 Paul G. Duke Academy for Community Leadership 1.0 and 2.0 is currently in session. The Academy is designed to develop more effective directors, leaders, board members, staff and volunteers of nonprofit organizations and is accomplished via education on topics including



the fundamental practices of board recruitment, planning, staffing, budgeting, evaluation, board meetings and community awareness. The goal is to help individuals make a difference on their boards and in their community. This year's participants will complete a series of leadership trainings to better



their communities. The conclusion of their training will include the Mosaic for Community Leadership Conference on May 24, 2023, where those who successfully completed the series will be presented with graduation certificates.



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MAILING PANEL

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