

President's Report to the Edison State Community College Board of Trustees June 18, 2025

➤ President's Office

- At the Board's June meeting, we are beginning our implementation of The Advance Ohio Higher Education Act, which officially takes effect on June 27, 2025. We have the following policies/actions before the Board:
 - ESCC Statement of Commitment
 - Interim Faculty Workload and Responsibilities Policy
 - Interim Academic Program Retrenchment Policy
 - Interim Intellectual Diversity and Non-discrimination Policy
 - Interim Faculty Tenure Policy
 - Interim Faculty Performance Evaluations Policy
 - Interim Faculty Post-Tenure Review Policy
- The Pell Grant eligibility changes have been removed from the U.S. Senate's Budget Reconciliation Bill.
- The Ohio FY26/FY27 Operations Budget Bill (HB96) process has moved to the conference committee stage in which a group of lawmakers from both the House and the Senate try to come to agreement on their differing versions of the state budget. In the House's version, community colleges would receive a 2% increase to the SSI pool of funds and would be able to raise tuition by \$5 per credit hour in each year of the biennium. In the Senate's version, community colleges would receive a 1% increase to the SSI pool of funds and would be able to raise tuition by \$10 per credit hour in each year of the biennium. The Senate version also removes community colleges' access to SSI funds that would have gone to Eastern Gateway Community College.

➤ Academic and Student Affairs

- The official 15th day count for the Summer 2025 Semester indicates a strong increase in enrollment. Headcount is up by 11.8%, and credit hour enrollment is up by 9.3%. Thank you to the enrollment management team, the advising team, the faculty, and all employees for their efforts in achieving this significant increase in enrollment.
- Edison State's Electric Vehicle Cart Race Team won the 7th Annual Grand Challenge Race in Lexington Ohio on April 30. The team completed 31 laps in 30 minutes, breaking the track record of 24 laps in 30 minutes. Congratulations to the faculty leader of the team, Tom Looker, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering Technology, and to the students: Trevor Meyer, Seth Weis, Noah Roy, and Matthew Longfellow.
- Edison State's Office of Workforce Development and Work-based Learning is partnering with Ed2Go to offer an online pharmacy technician certification

course, preparing students to pursue entry-level positions in the field. The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the demand for pharmacy technicians to grow by 4% through 2029 due to an aging population and higher rates of chronic diseases.

- The National Society of Leadership and Success (NSLS) welcomed 17 inductees from Edison State Community College during the spring semester. Student President Mercedes Beasley led the induction ceremony, and Dr. Melissa Wertz, Edison State Provost, delivered a welcome. Those inducted into the NSLS include Nicole Ashley of West Milton, Owen Bronston of Fairfield Township, Marissa Corner of Sidney, Kimberly Cox of Camden, Brooklyn Dean of Greenville, Kinzie Fourman of Greenville, Delainey Goodstein of Troy, Bryce Henry of Sidney, Katie Jackson of Vandalia, Mackenzie Jessup of Urbana, Taylor Kaeff of Tipp City, Cheyenne Kroecker of Sidney, Haley Lane of Troy, Dianna Miller of Greenville, Mindy Reynolds of Sidney, Liam Stein of Troy, and Samuel Whitaker III of Columbus.
- Edison State conducted a highly successful SparkForce Manufacturing Camp on June 2-5 for students ages 12-16. Thank you to Brandi Olberding and her team, Susan Barth, and Dave Barth for making this a signature event for the College.
- Edison State Community College's Peace Officer Academy honored 11 students with a graduation ceremony on June 17, 2025, following their successful completion of the 23-week program. It was Commander Joe Mahan's 50th class of graduates. Congratulations to Joe on this milestone! His leadership since the inception of the Edison State Peace Officer Academy has built a strong reputation for the program.
- Twenty-four student-athletes from Edison State Community College have received Academic All-Conference honors from the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference for the spring 2025 semester. To qualify, a student-athlete must have completed at least 12 credit hours with a 3.30 GPA. The recipients are as follows:
 - Men's Basketball: Jayden Jones (4.0), Marion.
 - Women's Basketball: Jenna Dirksen, Versailles; Jordan Smith, Westerville; Maisie Strawser, Lima; Abby Yukon, Christiansburg; and Emma Yukon (4.0), Christiansburg.
 - Volleyball: Brooklyn Bourne (4.0), Celina; Madyson Buckingham (4.0), Ansonia; Marissa Corner, Sidney; Isabella Hall, New Paris; Emma Luedeke, New Knoxville; Alana Pernell, Lima; and Haley Smith (4.0), Arcanum.
 - Baseball: Jaydon Benson (4.0), Centerville; Eli Donnan, Troy; Caleb Lambdin (4.0), Cincinnati; Jentsen Musgrove, Springboro; Nate Roberts, Dayton; Parker Shannon (4.0), Beavercreek; and Zach Walsh (4.0), Beavercreek.
 - Softball: Kayla Day, Mechanicsburg; Jenna Dirksen, Versailles; Erika Gostomsky (4.0), Covington; Morgan Rodgers (4.0), Tipp City; and Jaycee Taylor (4.0), Hamilton.

➤ Advancement

- The Edison Foundation has been awarded \$100,000 by Honda for the FiftyNEXT Capital Campaign: Engineering Technology and Manufacturing Lab Renovation. Thank you to Christina Raterman, Naomi Cantrell, and Dr. Rick Hanes for their efforts to secure these funds.

➤ Human Resources

- Thank you to the teams involved in the negotiation of the new faculty contract. Their professionalism and dedication are greatly appreciated. It was an extremely challenging process because of the impact of the Advance Ohio Higher Education Act. Nevertheless, the relationship between our faculty and the college administration is stronger than ever. We are grateful to have such wonderful faculty! The negotiation team members are as follows:
 - Dustin Wenrich, Faculty Union President
 - Vickie Kirk, Faculty Union Representative
 - Greg Clem, Faculty Union Representative
 - Dr. Melissa Wertz, Provost
 - Kara Myers, Director of Human Resources
 - James Lehmkuhl, Chief Financial Officer

➤ Finance

- The Finance team has finalized the FY 26 budget, which is being presented to the Board for approval today. The budget indicates a strong financial position for the college. Thank you to James Lehmkuhl and his team for their work in developing the budget!

➤ Operations/Facilities

- The West Hall Renovation Project is progressing nicely, and we are pleased to report that it is ahead of schedule and will be completed before the August 18th deadline. Much of the painting, ceiling grid installation, and electrical work has been completed. A good portion of the new floor tile has been installed, and the main hallway will be tiled over the next week. Access to West Hall remains limited.

➤ Staffing Updates

- Positions in the search process
 - Campus Police Officer
 - Dean of Professional and Technical Programs
 - Industrial Technical Training Manager
 - Director of Marketing and Communications
 - Director of Facilities and Capital Planning
- Positions recently filled
 - Controller – Jennifer Schemmel (June 16)
 - Assistant Dean of Student Affairs – Aubrey Adams (July 1)
- Positions approved but not yet posted
 - APS Allied Health

- Upcoming or Current Vacancies
 - Coordinator of Transfer Pathways Advising
 - Enrollment Manager
 - Data Analyst
 - Chief Information Officer

➤ Upcoming Events

- The Edison Foundation's Drive for Scholarships Golf Outing – July 25 (9:00am)
- ACCT New Trustees Governance Leadership Institute – August 6-8 – Community College of Allegheny County
- Fall 2025 Convocation and Duty Days – August 18 (9:00am)
- Fall 2025 Semester Begins – August 25
- Annual Board of Trustees Retreat – August 27 (8:30am) – Hotel Versailles, 1819 Room
- Edison State Board of Trustees Meeting – September 24 (2:00pm)
- 2025 ACCT Leadership Congress – October 22-25 – New Orleans, LA