

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

➤ President's Office

- On September 5, The President's Council held its annual retreat at Lost Creek Reserve. The focus of the retreat was development of the 2026-2029 Strategic Plan. After presentations from Kim Zornes, Dr. Rick Hanes, and Dr. Jeannette Passmore, the Council members separated into small groups and spent most of the afternoon brainstorming potential action items in support of the three strategic priorities that will guide the new Strategic Plan and the Rural Guided Pathways project:
 - The Right Academic Programs Delivered in the Right Format
 - Student Success Model – Connecting with Students and Connecting Them with Careers
 - Marketing/Communicating Edison State's Identity
- I sent the following e-mail to all employees on September 4 as an update on Edison State's SB1 (The Advance Ohio Higher Education Act) compliance efforts:

Hello Everyone,

Over the past few months, Edison State has been working hard to implement the requirements of The Advance Ohio Higher Education Act (Senate Bill 1). Many people have been involved in this effort, and I want to thank them for all they have done because it has been challenging work. Today we are announcing the results of our compliance with perhaps the most difficult aspect of SB1, the rule that says academic degree programs of study must average at least 5 graduates over a 3-year period. I am sad to report that the following degree programs have fallen below this 5-graduate average threshold and will thus be eliminated from our curriculum:

- Agricultural Maintenance
- Aviation: Professional Pilot
- Banking
- Early Childhood Education
- Equipment Maintenance: HVAC
- Industrial Equipment Supervision
- IMT Industrial Operations
- IMT Operations Technology
- Interactive Media Web Design

- Interactive Media Web Development
- Paralegal Studies
- Veterinary Technology

While these closures mean that Edison State will no longer admit students into the affected programs, effective immediately, we remain committed to helping all students currently enrolled in these programs to finish their degrees.

Consequently, each program will develop a “teach out plan” to meet students’ needs. The teach out plans may run for 1 to 3 years from now, depending on enrollment numbers, courses needed, etc. Some of the programs listed above are led by faculty who also oversee viable programs with more than 5 graduates; these faculty positions will not be affected. For other programs on the list, the full-time faculty lead will remain with the College through this academic year and possibly longer, depending on the specific teach out plan. Adjunct faculty needs will be evaluated as the teach out plans become clear. Students are being informed now of these closures, and changes to our external-facing publications are in the works.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to me or Dr. Wertz, our Provost, with any questions you might have. Thank you for all you do for our students!

Chris

➤ Academic and Student Affairs

- The official 15th Day Count of enrollment for the Fall 2025 Semester revealed another all-time single semester headcount record for Edison State of 4,662 students. This “unduplicated headcount” is up by 1% over last year. Total credit hours for the Fall 2025 semester were down slightly compared to last year, with a drop of 1%. Thank you to the Enrollment Management team, the Advisors, the Faculty, and everyone who had a role in achieving this record enrollment!
- Congratulations to Rick Hieronimus, EMS Adjunct Instructor, on being nominated by Edison State for the Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges (OATYC) 2024–2025 Adjunct Teacher of the Year Award! This nomination is a significant honor and a recognition of Rick’s outstanding contributions to students, colleagues, and the institution. Final award winners will be announced at the OATYC Annual Conference on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Kent State University – Tuscarawas Campus
- Edison State recognized 15 employees for instructing a combined total of 2,700 semester hours, or approximately 900 classes, in their careers at the College’s annual adjunct faculty recognition banquet on Wednesday, August 20. The following instructors were recognized for reaching significant milestones in their careers:

- Three-Hundred Seventy-Five Hours: Michael Houser, Computer Information Technology, Humanities; Lin Roberts, Business, Computer Information Technology, General Studies; Anthony Wagner, Mathematics
- Three-Hundred Hours: Carin Benning, Criminal Justice, General Studies, Sociology
- Two-Hundred Twenty-Five Hours: Pamela Gilbert, American Sign Language
- One-Hundred Fifty Hours: Christina Brownlee, Computer Information Technology, Interactive Media, Marketing; Kris Lee, Computer Information Technology, Criminal Justice, Cybersecurity, General Studies; Brian Shuler, Mathematics, Political Science; Li Zhang, Mathematics
- Seventy-Five Hours: Amanda Bylczyński, History; Amy Farmer, Communication; Darrin Ike, Real Estate; Stuart McAllister, History; Virginia (Holley) Ogletree, Psychology; Luciano Tacuri, Spanish
- Congratulations to Dr. Kevin Coughlan and Dr. Caitlin Borden on being selected to give presentations at the annual Ohio Association of Two-Year Colleges (OATYC) Conference on Friday, October 10, 2025, at Kent State Tuscarawas in New Philadelphia, OH.

➤ Operations/Facilities

- Capital projects currently in progress or being planned include the following:
 - Athletic Locker Room Addition
 - Nursing Wing Addition
 - Boiler Replacement
 - Bookstore Renovation (to create a Student Resource Center)
 - Edison Drive Widening and Repaving

➤ Advancement/The Edison Foundation

- The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College enjoyed a great day of golf at the scenic Troy Country Club during its 7th Annual Drive for Scholarships event on July 25. The event welcomed 82 participating golfers, as well as volunteers and sponsors, and raised \$8,639 for scholarships. This brings the total funds raised through the annual event to \$94,973, equating to at least 94 \$1,000 scholarships over the past seven years.
- The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College, Fastlane, and the University of Dayton Research Institute have announced the recipients of the 2025 Shelby County Manufacturing Pathway Scholarship. The scholarship is open to recent high school graduates of Shelby County and current Edison State students residing in Shelby County.
 - Hannah Hopkins of Sidney, Kendall Reese of Jackson Center, Noah Roy of Greenville, and Seth Weis of Sidney each received a \$2,000 scholarship as they pursue a program at Edison State in a manufacturing pathway or a select pathway that supports manufacturing. UDRI provided \$500 per student, and The Edison Foundation provided \$1,500.

➤ Staffing Updates

- Positions in the search process
 - Dean of Applied Programs and Workforce Innovation
 - Career Pathways Enrollment Navigator
 - Coordinator of Transfer Pathways Advising
 - Industrial Technical Training Manager
 - Chief Information Officer
 - Academic Project Specialist – Allied Health
 - Administrative Assistant to the Provost
 - Enrollment Manager
 - Assistant Director of Marketing/Communications
 - Career Pathways Advisor
- Positions recently filled
 - Director of Facilities and Capital Planning – Chris Haring (Sept. 15)
- Positions approved but not posted
 - Nursing Faculty
 - Data Analyst
 - Associate Client Services Technician
- Upcoming or Current Vacancies
 - Administrative Assistant to the VP of Finance and Institutional Effectiveness
 - Supervisor of Maintenance and Facilities

➤ Upcoming Events

- ODHE Trustees' Conference – September 18
- Edison State Board of Trustees Meeting – September 24 (2:00pm)
- The Edison Foundation's Disc Golf Tournament – September 27 (9:00am)
- All-College Meeting – September 29 (3:00pm)
- Edison Foundation's Scholarship Dinner – October 2 (6:00pm)
- College and Career Fair – October 3 (9:00am)
- President's Council Meeting – October 8 (3:00pm)
- Cabinet Retreat – October 10
- Rural Guided Pathways Coach's Site Visit – October 13-14
- 2025 ACCT Leadership Congress – October 22-25 – New Orleans, LA
- Rural Guided Pathways Institute #2 – October 29-31 – Louisville, KY