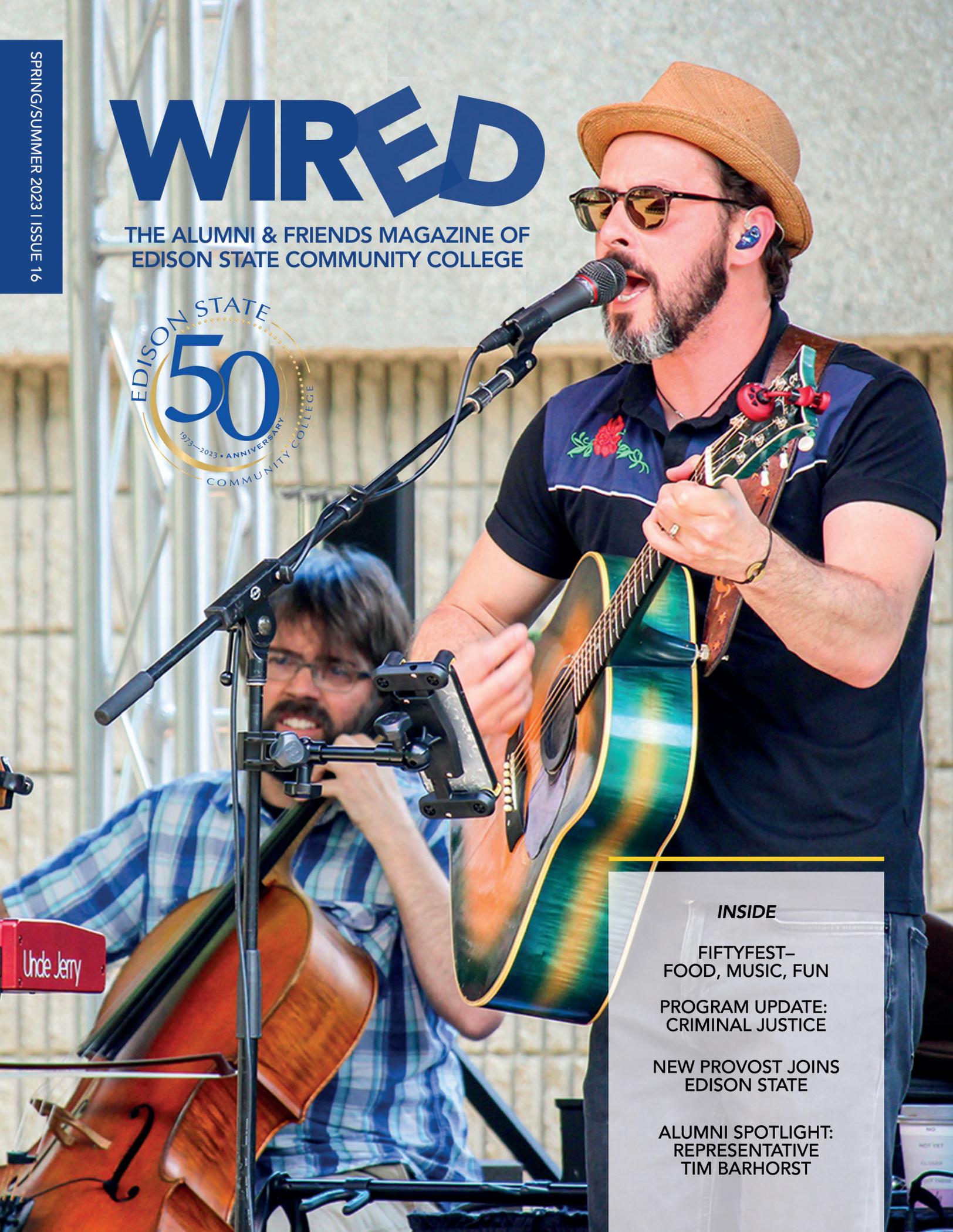


WIRED

THE ALUMNI & FRIENDS MAGAZINE OF
EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



INSIDE

FIFTYFEST—
FOOD, MUSIC, FUN

PROGRAM UPDATE:
CRIMINAL JUSTICE

NEW PROVOST JOINS
EDISON STATE

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT:
REPRESENTATIVE
TIM BARHORST

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Wired Magazine Staff

President

Chris Spradlin

Editors

Dr. Richard Hanes
Jessica Hill
Christina Raterman

Design

Andrea Francis

Contributors

Roger Fulk
Julie Slattery
Samantha Wilt

Advancement, Partnerships, and Strategic Planning

Dr. Richard Hanes, VP of Advancement, Strategic Planning and Partnerships; Executive Director of The Edison Foundation
Christina Raterman, Director of Advancement

Marketing

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

Photographers

Andrea Francis
Jessica Hill

Published by

Office of Alumni Engagement
Advancement, Partnerships, & Strategic Planning
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

On the Cover

Shannon Clark & the Sugar performs during FiftyFest. The band consists of numerous Edison State alumni.

Upcoming Events

August

- 3 Dayton Dragons–Alumni Group Ticket Event*
- 4 Open House
- 5 Dayton Dragons–Alumni Group Ticket Event*
- 10 Summer Symposium for HR Professionals
- 25 Dayton Dragons–Alumni Group Ticket Event*
- 28 Fall Semester Begins

September

- 4 Labor Day (Campuses Closed)
- 12-13 JOIN–Student Clubs & Activities Fair
- 16 50th Anniversary Event: Charger Country Softball/
Baseball Day at Day Air Ballpark (Edison State Teams)
- 29 College & Career Fair
- 30 50th Anniversary Event: BYOP Disc Golf Tournament

*Tickets required and limited, first come first served for alumni who had requested in previous advertising.

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

scan to register

Open House

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 2023 • 9AM–12PM
ROBINSON STUDENT CAREER CENTER–PIQUA CAMPUS

REGISTER TO ATTEND AT
WWW.EDISONOHIO.EDU/OPENHOUSE

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

CHARGER COUNTRY

ALUMNI & FRIENDS EVENT *at Day Air Ballpark*

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
SOFTBALL 1:00PM • BASEBALL 4:00PM
GATES OPEN AT 12PM

- FREE ADMITTANCE TO THE DRAGON'S STADIUM
- CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE
- FREE GIFT TO FIRST 50 TO ARRIVE

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

50TH ANNIVERSARY

BYOP DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND TO REGISTER VISIT
DISCGOLFSCENE.COM/TOURNAMENTS

DUKE FOUNDATION DISC GOLF COURSE • 1973 EDISON DRIVE, PIQUA

From the President



Chris Spradlin
President

Fifty years – half a century – can seem like a long time, depending on your perspective. As we consider the changes in our world over the last 50 years, we would probably say 2023 is unrecognizable compared to 1973. That is certainly the case for Edison State Community College, which was chartered 50 years ago as the first general and technical college in Ohio. The College grew quickly from humble beginnings in a small, rented facility in Piqua, enrolling slightly more



than 300 students in 30 courses, to a thriving community college today of over 5,000 students enrolled annually at 4 campuses serving Miami, Shelby, Darke, and Preble counties. In those 50 years, a great deal has changed. Most notably, the faculty, what they teach, how they teach, and who they teach are far different now than in the 1970's. Nevertheless, there is one aspect of life at Edison State that has not changed – something we can always rely on – and that is the impact of education on the lives of our students. Today, as in 1973, students' lives are enriched and transformed through learning, which in turn allows them to realize their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families. This has always been Edison

State's mission and always will be because education and the rewards it brings never go out of style.

On June 8, 2023, Edison State Community College kicked off its 50th anniversary celebration with FiftyFest. A host of food trucks and live music from five different acts brought the Edison State courtyard to life in beautiful weather conditions. The evening was a great success with strong attendance and an atmosphere of family fun. It was the perfect way to begin the College's year-long celebration of its 50th birthday. FiftyFest served as a thank you to the community and gave us an opportunity to introduce the 50th anniversary motto: "Bold Legacy. Bright Future." It is this legacy of excellence and dedication to student success that we endeavor to celebrate throughout the year, while also looking ahead to the good things to come in Edison State's future. We have many more activities planned for the 2023-2024 school year, all of which are designed to thank our stakeholders and to showcase the contributions of Edison State over the years. We hope you will join us at these events in celebration of YOUR community college.

Easily the most anticipated event on Edison State's annual calendar is our commencement ceremony. It is a time when we get to see face-to-face the culmination of our students' success and

Excellence. Innovation. Moderniza



to congratulate them on a job well done. Commencement is an educator’s “best day,” and this year on May 19, I had the privilege of greeting nearly 200 students as they received their diplomas. It was thrilling for me to participate – even for just a few seconds – in each graduate’s moment of celebration because it signified a progression in their lives, an achievement of a challenging goal, and the “commencing” of a new endeavor. In total, approximately 700 students received over 1,000 degrees and certificates in the 2022-2023 academic year. These are amazing numbers, and they demonstrate not only the hard work of our students but also the

dedication and skill of our faculty and staff, who have always been the heart of what makes Edison State such an outstanding institution.

As Edison State embarks upon its 50th year, we say thank you to the community for your wonderful support throughout our history, and we hope you will take the opportunity to celebrate with us and to show your appreciation for all that Edison State has done for our region.

Go Chargers!

Chris Spradlin, President

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ation. Efficiency. Focus.



Update on Criminal Justice

Criminal



Laura Larger provides fingerprinting instruction to students Megan Gilliland [L] and Nicole Howard.

PREPARE FOR A CAREER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Criminal Justice program at Edison State Community College provides a broad educational background for students interested in understanding the complexities of the criminal justice system. The program equips students to become law enforcement or corrections officers.

Led by Laura Larger, Program Coordinator and Instructor of Criminal Justice, the two-year program is intended to serve individuals seeking

entry-level positions, especially in local and state law enforcement agencies, juvenile and adult corrections, probation and parole, and public and private security agencies. In addition to technical skills and content, general education courses help students better handle social issues while performing their jobs.

Students can also choose the Criminal Justice/Computer Forensics program, which combines criminal justice with network and computer security. Students in the program will take courses to prepare them to detect illegal network acts and learn how to obtain and ready evidence for the

prosecution of criminal acts.

"I started the Criminal Justice program last August," said Edison State student Emily Clendenin. "It's been such a positive experience. I took Intro to Criminal Justice and now I'm taking Criminal Investigations. So far, this class has been fun and informative. I hope the next classes I take will have the same positive effect!"

The department also runs two Peace Officer Academies each year, training and certifying 25 to 30 new officers a year. Seventy-eight percent of graduates who successfully completed the Academy and passed the State Exam have received full arrest powers with an

Justice

AN UPDATE ON THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROGRAM AT EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Criminal Justice Advisory Committee

agency. Edison State cadets currently serve at 73 different agencies.

"Attending the Edison State Peace Officer Academy was a transformative experience that provided me with the skills, knowledge, and discipline necessary to succeed in my career in law enforcement," said Edison State alumna Lauren Kilburn. "Through the Academy's emphasis on professionalism, integrity, and community service, I gained a deep appreciation for the importance of public trust and accountability in law enforcement."

Since July 2022, a team at Edison State has worked on The Piqua Community Foundation's Pitch Piqua charitable grant competition. Selected as one of three finalists to give their pitch in March 2023, the team ultimately won the \$50,000 grant with their pitch, "Prepared." In addition, supporters donated more than \$1,700 in pass-through donations to support the College's proposed project.

That funding will be used to purchase a Virtual Reality Training System for use in the Peace Officer Academy and Criminal Justice program at Edison State, as well as shared use for law enforcement agencies and other area organizations, businesses, and churches. The training system provides realistic, judgment-based scenarios with a fully immersive training experience and 360-degree views that can be adjusted in real time. The system also allows users to play back the scenario for additional feedback on ways to improve.

"We're very excited for the opportunity to bring this training to Edison State and our community," Larger said. "We're also appreciative of

- Steve Blei, Officer, Covington Police Department
- Timothy Cordonnier, Instructional Supervisor, Upper Valley Career Center
- Jack Davis, Deputy Chief, Tipp City Police Department
- Dave Duchak, Sheriff, Miami County Sheriff's Department
- Veronica French, Mgr. of Professional & Technical Programs, Edison State
- Lee Harmon, Chief, Covington Police Department
- Mike Holler, Police Chief, Enon Police Department
- Bruce Jamison, Director of Public Safety, Edison State
- Laura Larger, Instructor of Criminal Justice, Edison State
- Joe Mahan, Peace Officer Academy Commander, Edison State
- Ryan Ormberg, Captain, Troy Police Department
- Andy Runyan, Dean of Professional & Technical Programs, Edison State
- Melissa Wertz, Provost, Edison State
- Chuck Wirick, Chief, Jackson Center Police Department

The Piqua Community Foundation for putting on the event. Our goal is to have this ready for the fall term."

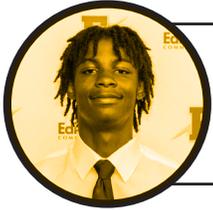
Edison State's Criminal Justice department is currently in partnership with Upper Valley Career Center, which is beginning a First Responders program that will be housed at Edison State beginning this fall. The partnership will allow Upper Valley Career Center students to earn college credit while completing the program.

Renovations at Edison State's Piqua

Campus will provide updated classroom space and a large lab. This will allow the department to add additional program courses, giving students a greater selection of courses and labs that provide them with more hands-on experience.

"There are many different paths within criminal justice that students can take," Larger said. "We want to be sure they're prepared no matter what their goals are beyond Edison State."

Their Experience



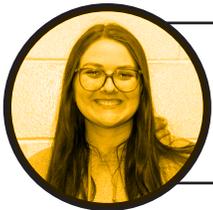
Devonte Curry
Current Student

As an Edison State student-athlete in the criminal justice program, I've been impressed with how student-oriented the college is regarding priorities. My criminal justice instructor, Laura Larger, is very understanding, and it is easy to tell how much she truly cares about students' well-being.



Emily Clendenin
Current Student

I've had such a positive experience in both classes that I have taken. I took an Introduction to Criminal Justice class, which has given me an overall insight into the system and opened my eyes. Now I am taking Criminal Investigations, and so far, this class has been nothing but what I expected, fun and informative. I knew the class would be interesting, as I previously had the same professor. I hope the next classes I continue to take will have the same positive effect!



Audrey Fyffe
Current Student

One of my favorite activities in my criminal justice course has been the fingerprinting activity. We used different styles of brushing to help find our fingerprints on paper and tables.

MINI-GRANT FUNDED ETIQUETTE DINNER



As an ending and special treat for the students enrolled in Rebecca Schinaman's Information Technology Capstone Project Course during Spring Semester 2023, they celebrated by attending an Etiquette Dinner at the Coldwater Cafe in Tipp City.

Roger Fulk, a Certified Etiquette Trainer and Presenter, visited Rebecca's class a couple of times throughout the semester to share with the students tips on proper etiquette and dining manners. At the dinner, they had an opportunity to practice and perfect their skills.

Adjunct faculty were also invited to join the group. This project was funded by a mini-grant from The Edison Foundation submitted by Professor Schinaman.

DINNER ETIQUETTE TIPS

- Eat slowly and cut only a few small bites of your meal at a time.
- Chew with your mouth closed and do not talk with food in your mouth.
- Pass food items to the right (i.e. bread, salad dressings).
- Pass salt and pepper together, one in each hand.
- Taste your food before seasoning it.

Experience



Kyle Smith
Current Student

My time in the Criminal Justice program has been an amazing experience with a wonderful professor. Having a charismatic teacher while learning an intriguing subject really makes for an immersive experience.



Lauren Kilburn
Class of '22

Attending the Edison State Peace Academy was a transformative experience that provided me with the skills, knowledge, and discipline necessary to succeed in my career in law enforcement. The rigorous physical and mental training and the classroom instruction on criminal law, ethics, and emergency response challenged me to push myself to my limits and develop my abilities to their fullest potential. I gained a solid foundation and a sense of purpose that has prepared me for a successful career.



Tom Hemmelgarn
Current Student

I started my career in law enforcement in 1968 as a patrolman and then as a Chief of Police and Special Deputy. I returned to the criminal investigation class to experience the laws' changes. Since returning, I have enjoyed learning about how our criminal justice system has changed. Edison State has provided courses to enhance my ability to better understand those changes.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT APPRECIATION DAY



Edison State Community College recently celebrated International Student Appreciation Day with a presentation by Mouhamed Sidibe, a student-athlete from Senegal. He discussed the importance of having a plan, knowing what you want to get out of studying abroad, and working hard. He also shared some tips for making friends and finding support systems once you're abroad. Guests were also treated to a traditional Senegalese dish and drink—Chicken Vermicelli Noodles and Bissap. Five international students currently represent the countries of Benin, Canada, Japan, and Senegal.

Charger Athletics Achievements

ATHLETIC HONORS

Edison State Community College student-athletes recently finished out the 2022–23 season with teams making a National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Region 12 tournament appearance. Following their successful seasons, 15 Edison State student-athletes have been named recipients of post-season awards from the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference for the 2022–23 season.

VOLLEYBALL

- Taylor Lessing (Sidney) has been named Setter of the Year. Lessing, a freshman, put up a total of 304 assists, averaging an impressive 6.47 assists per set in conference play.
- Olivia Bradshaw (Anna) has been named the recipient of the Sportsmanship Award. Bradshaw, a freshman defensive specialist and outside hitter, was selected for the award because of her dedication and support of her fellow teammates.
- Brianna Slusher (Troy) was named All-OCCAC First Team. Slusher, a sophomore middle hitter, earned 237 points, 176 digs, 194 kills, and 56 blocks in 14 conference games in the 2022 season.
- Sarah Clark (Jackson Center) was named All-OCCAC Second Team. Clark, an outside hitter, earned a total of 161 points, 108 digs, 137 kills, and 13 blocks in conference play during her freshman season.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Matea Bartel (Cincinnati) has been named to the Second Team All-Conference. Bartel, a freshman guard/forward, averaged 12.4 points per game, 9.7 rebounds per game, and 2.3 assists

per game in conference action.

- Ella Hoehne (Russia) was also named Second Team All-Conference. The freshman forward from Russia averaged 14.8 points per game, three assists per game, and 1.6 steals per game in conference play.
- Dana Evans (Cincinnati) has been named to the Sportsmanship Team. Evans, a freshman guard, averaged 4.7 points, 1.3 assists, and 0.7 steals per game in conference action.

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- Jesse Dixon (Portsmouth) has been named to the Second Team All-Conference. Dixon, a freshman guard, averaged 14.9 points per game, 1.8 assists per game, and 5.2 rebounds per game in conference play.
- Sophomore Montana Cottrell (Cincinnati) was named to the Sportsmanship Team. Cottrell, a point guard, averaged 4.5 points per game, 2.1 rebounds per game, and 2.5 assists per game in conference action.

SOFTBALL

- Grace Shaffer (Greenville) has been named the Pitcher of the Year and to the First Team All-Conference. Shaffer, a sophomore, maintained a .400 batting average with one RBI and one SB in conference play. Pitching, she maintained a 3.77 ERA and threw 31 Ks in conference action.
- Kaela May (Tipp City) has also been named to the First Team All-Conference. May, a freshman infielder, maintained a .378 batting average with one HR, 24 RBIs, and five SBs in conference play.
- Morgan Pine (St. Paris) also earned First Team All-Conference honors. Pine, a sophomore infielder, maintained a .403 batting average with three HRs, 21 RBIs, and three SBs in conference action.

- Audrey Fyffe (Springfield) was named to the Second Team All-Conference. The freshman utility maintained a .577 batting average with two HRs, 31 RBIs, and one SB in conference play.
- Hanna DeLong (Mechanicsburg) also earned Second Team All-Conference honors. The sophomore infielder maintained a .474 batting average with two HRs, 31 RBIs, and one SB in conference play.
- Sophomore Madalyn Kirtley (Sidney) was voted the winner of the Coaches Award at Edison State. The utility player maintained a .167 batting average with five RBIs and one SB during her game appearances.



2022-2023 HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 out of 5** athletic teams qualified for postseason play.
- 27** student-athletes earned OCCAC Academic All-Conference Honors in Fall 2022.
- 22** student-athletes earned OCCAC Academic All-Conference Honors in Fall 2022.
- 13** student-athletes were named Academic All-Americans
 - 1st Team (4.0)**
Mackenzie Singer
 - 2nd Team (3.8-3.99)**
Savannah Wead, Paxton Hunley, Auston Montz, and Devonte Curry
 - 3rd Team (3.6-3.79)**
Allie Dodge, Audrey Fyffe, Hanna DeLong, Alison Cox, Kaela May, Zayne Centi, Luke Brockman, and Will Motzko.

Graduates Honored with Ceremony



Edison State Community College recognized the achievements of the Class of 2023 during its 48th annual commencement ceremony held on Friday, May 19, at the Piqua Campus.

"We are extremely proud of you," Edison State President Chris Spradlin told graduates. "We're overjoyed to be able to celebrate your accomplishments today."

"You chose to do something difficult in pursuing your degree or certificate," Spradlin continued. "And today you've accomplished that goal. But keep in mind the other reason we're here today, and that's to celebrate a commencement. A commencement is actually the beginning of something new, a new responsibility, a new task, and that's where you are at this point. You're about to embark on a new endeavor. Will you be successful again as you have today? I have every confidence you will."

The commencement ceremony included a keynote address from Tim Barhorst, Ohio State Representative and Edison State alumnus. Barhorst graduated with an Associate of Science from Edison State in 1992, and he currently represents the people of the 85th House District. Born in Fort Loramie, Barhorst is a small business owner and community leader.

"Class of 2023—congratulations, and a job well done," said Barhorst. "All

your time, effort, and dedication has culminated to this special day for you and your families. Although this might mark the end of one pursuit, it signifies the beginning of a new chapter in your personal journeys and lives."

"Many of you earned your two-year degree; that's going to get what you need in this job market today. Many of you are going on to further your education at a four-year school, which is a great decision. You got what you need here. Now you can get more of what you need down the road."

"All of you are real people with real life stories and real career goals," Barhorst added. "You showed up and now you're going to show out. The degrees handed out today have a value that means something to hospitals, manufacturers, welding shops, schools, and keeping our communities safe. Your skills will be applied to manufacturing, IT, laboratories, clinics, restaurants, day cares—all in demand right here, right now."

"In life, we don't get what we wish for; we get what we work for. Those that show up and show out, you achieve your goals. I'm optimistic about the future of our region and Ohio because of places like Edison State and the people like you that graduate from here. I look forward to the day you become the next innovator, entrepreneur, or even a leader as the focus point in the Midwest

MEET THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023*

660 graduates earned **989** degrees or certificates.

Graduates' ages range from **16** to **60**.

55% are female, **45%** are male.

46 graduated with honors (GPA 3.5-3.74), **45** with high honors (GPA 3.75-3.99), and **53** with highest honors (GPA 4.0).

35% live in Miami County, **22%** in Shelby County, and **19%** in Darke County.

20 Ohio counties are represented.

57 graduates were high school seniors, **2** were juniors, and **1** was a sophomore.

170 students with transfer credit totaled **8,724** hours transferred, averaging **38** hours per student.

*Figures represent graduates in academic year 2022-23 as of May 12, 2023
Office of Institutional Research

and the true heartland of America. The great State of Ohio is alive and well. You have much to be proud of, and your future is bright."

The Class of 2023 includes 660 graduates earning 989 degrees and certificates. Degrees and certificates completed include those in career and transfer programs such as arts, business, communication, engineering and manufacturing, health sciences, humanities, information technology, mathematics, science, and social and public services.



Throwback

From modest beginnings in 1973 in a rented facility, the College has grown in stages, enduring many changes. As Edison State celebrates 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.

EARNING DEGREES



Photograph courtesy of Franklin Monroe Schools.

Out of a graduating class of 37, 10 students from Franklin Monroe High School's Class of 2023 also graduated with their associate degree from Edison State. Enrollment Manager Erica Wentworth attended the high school's senior breakfast on May 26 to help honor these graduates.

DISTRICT SCIENCE DAY



Over 100 students in grades five through 12 from Miami, Darke, Shelby, and Champaign counties competed in the Ohio Academy of Science Upper Miami Valley District Science Day, held at Edison State on Saturday, March 11.

\$50,000 GRANT WINNERS



Photograph by Erik Ganger + Lily Stewart of Ganger Images.

Edison State was named The Piqua Community Foundation's 2023 Pitch Piqua \$50,000 grant winner! Edison State thanks everyone involved in making project "Prepared" a success, including Dr. Andy Runyan, Dean of Professional & Technical Programs, and Laura Larger, Instructor of Criminal Justice, who oversaw this initiative and pitched on behalf of Edison State and The Edison Foundation.

TAX PREP



Photograph courtesy of Partners in Hope.

Students in the Edison State accounting program once again volunteered with Partners in Hope to offer free basic tax preparation. The Partners in Hope site is an IRS-certified Free Tax Prep site for individuals with \$57,000 or less in income.

JUNETEENTH



Members of the Diversity Committee and Student Affairs Department attended Juneteenth events in Troy and Piqua. Board Chair Jim Oda [L] and Father Tom Hemm are pictured in front of the Randolph and McCulloch Freedom's Struggle Complex in Piqua during a special celebratory event.

FiftyFest—Music, Food, and Fun



Edison State Community College and The Edison Foundation hosted FiftyFest on Thursday, June 8, 2023, in the courtyard at the Piqua Campus. The free event marked the kickoff of the College's 50th anniversary and featured musical performances, food trucks, and more.

Diverse musical artists entertained the crowd throughout the event, and included Noah Back, a young entertainer from southwestern Ohio who has been performing since he was 12 years old; Shannon Clark & the Sugar, a family band from Darke County who perform Midwest Americana Soul; and

special guest Stranger, an 80s cover band from Dayton. The Charger Music Society, which is comprised of Edison State faculty, students, and community members, and the Innovation Quartet, a diverse group of active musicians and educators from the Miami Valley, also performed.

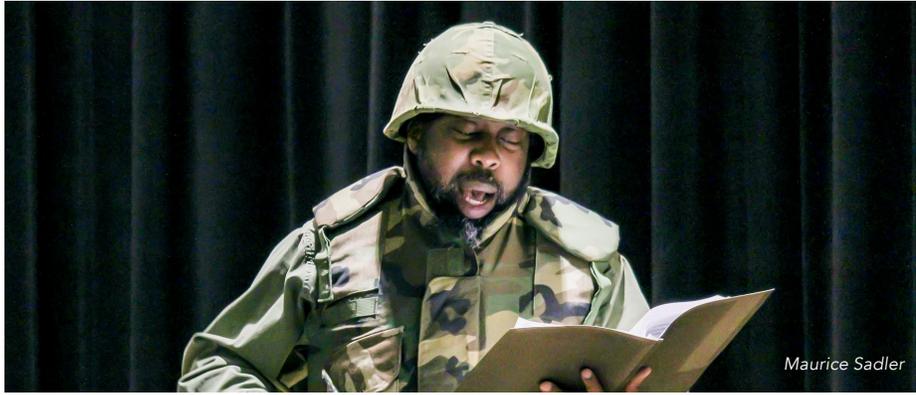
Food trucks at the event included Buckeye Burgers, Kona Ice, Nacho Pig, Smokin Barrels BBQ, Susie's Big Dipper, and U Wanna Pizza Me?

Following the kickoff event, Edison State will host monthly events to commemorate its 50th anniversary, including a disc golf tournament, car

show, and alumni speaker series. The celebration will conclude with the 2024 commencement ceremony.

Since 1973, Edison State has followed in the footsteps of its namesake, Thomas Alva Edison, earning a reputation for being an innovator in providing accessible, quality education and training opportunities for students. The College offers more than 100 degrees and certificates, four accessible in-person locations, and convenient online learning options. More than 10,000 Edison State alumni are positively impacting our communities.

Black History Month Celebration



The Diversity Committee at Edison State Community College hosted a celebration of Black History Month on February 22 in the Robinson Theater at the Piqua Campus.

"Diversity and inclusion are critically important topics in American culture," said Marva Archibald, Diversity Committee Chairperson. "At Edison State, we encourage members of our communities to come together to explore the ways in which dance, theatre, music, art, and literature serve to remind us that who we are as Americans and how we engage with each other matter in this complex and diverse society."

The event included a dramatic monologue by Maurice Sadler, M. Ed., M.A., which detailed General Colin Powell's first tour in the Vietnam War from 1962–63. Serving as an Army Captain, Powell was a South Vietnamese Army (ARVN) advisor with the 1st and 2nd Infantry Divisions.

Dance and musical performances were also a highlight of the evening. Performances included the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company 2, an elite cohort of early-career performing dance artists; The Innovation Quartet, an active group of musicians and

educators whose mission is to promote and educate southwest Ohio residents on the historical and cultural impact of the American art form of jazz; and the North Star Tribe led by Jason Evans and Company, a group of percussionists that performs drums from around the world.

Students in Dr. Vivian Blevins' creative writing classes wrote and presented poetry and stories, which included *Love Must Be Dead*, written by AnnMarie Palombi and presented by Kena Bennett; *Just A Boy*, written by Rebecca Spencer and presented by Destined Dewberry; *Say My Name, Four and Twenty*, and *Trying to go Home*, written and presented by Rebecca Spencer; and *Amita Patel: What Is She?*, written and presented by Amita Elizabeth Snyder.

The Diversity Committee's mission is to raise awareness and provide opportunities to the Edison State community, students, stakeholders, and employees on the concepts of diversity, equity, marginalization, and inclusive environments.

Edison State, Park National Bank, and U.S. Bank sponsored the Black History Month event.



LEARN MORE

For more information and to view upcoming events, visit www.edisonohio.edu/diversity.

Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle



Supporters recently came together at Edison State Community College's Piqua Campus for the 13th annual Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle fundraiser to support Edison State Athletics. Over 250 people were in attendance, which awarded one lucky ticket holder the \$10,000 grand prize.

This year's event brought in \$9,333.60 for the athletics program through the sale of tickets, a silent auction, and other activities. Nearly \$14,000 in prize money was awarded to winning ticket holders, including the

grand prize winner, Brian Sowers of Piqua.

"The funds raised through this event allow us to provide a transformative experience for our student-athletes on and off the field and court and help our teams cover costs that accompany postseason participation," said Justin McCulla, Edison State Athletics Director. "Through generous fundraising, we've positioned ourselves for success in a very competitive environment."

Originally known as the Charger 300, the Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle

began in 2010 to provide funding for postseason play and offset expenses beyond the Athletics budget.

Over the past nine years, \$174,573.40 raised from previous Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle events have been used to purchase team uniforms and equipment, provide team facility upgrades, and cover expenses associated with postseason play.

SAVE THE DATE

**Charger Athletics Reverse Raffle
March 21, 2024**

Mosaic of Community Leadership



Approximately 100 nonprofit board members, executive directors, and staff from throughout the region attended the 20th annual Mosaic of Community Leadership Conference on Wednesday, May 24, at Edison State Community College's Piqua Campus.

The event was hosted by The Paul G. Duke Academy for Community

Leadership and the Center for Leadership Development at Edison State.

The one-day conference gave participants the opportunity to engage in a keynote address, network with other area nonprofit leaders, attend breakout education and work sessions, and enjoy lunch.

A keynote address was provided by John M. Carreon, Partner and CEO of Advancement Experts, a consulting firm dedicated to helping organizations build a culture of philanthropy through advancement planning, vision-based strategic planning, campaign planning, leadership development and coaching, and organizational and culture development. Carreon also

serves as a faculty member for the Indiana University Lilly Family School of Philanthropy.

Those in attendance also participated in breakout education and work sessions that covered topics such as grant application and management, nonprofit financial considerations, recruitment and communication, diversity, financial management, friendraising and fundraising, governance and leadership, human resources, and partnerships.

To be added to the Mosaic of Community Leadership conference mailing list, contact Dr. Rick Hanes by calling 937.778.7806 or emailing rhanes@edisonohio.edu.

New Provost Joins Edison State



Edison State Community College is pleased to announce that Dr. Melissa A. Wertz has been appointed as Provost for the College. Dr. Wertz assumed the role in January of 2023.

Most recently serving as a dean at Pittsburgh Technical College, Dr. Wertz has extensive experience in higher education in various positions. Early in her career, she worked as an adjunct faculty member at a community college. This experience inspired her to pursue a career in higher education, which has

included positions as a faculty member, online learning consultant, instructional technology specialist, faculty developer, academic chair, and dean.

Under her leadership, Dr. Wertz helped launch 15 online programs at Pittsburgh Technical College, ranging from certificates to baccalaureate programs that created stackable credentialing options. She led multiple campus-wide initiatives related to instructional technology and teaching, including implementing learning management systems, virtual classroom tools, digital textbooks, online teacher training, and professional development initiatives.

“Dr. Wertz brings a wealth of experience with supporting faculty and promoting instructional excellence,” said Edison State President Chris Spradlin. “Her work as an innovator in the areas of online learning and program development will be particularly vital to Edison State’s future. We are so pleased to have her join our team.”

An avid learner, Dr. Wertz is constantly learning new things and sharing learning resources with others. She holds a Doctor of Education from

Walden University. Her dissertation topic focused on the persistence to program completion for online students.

She has presented at local, state, and national conferences. As a member of a speaker series, she designed and delivered presentations for different college and university audiences to provide professional development opportunities for faculty and administrators. The common thread of all her experience is a focus on student and faculty success as a champion for lifelong learning, innovation, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

“Edison State is a great fit for my skill set, experience, and passion for assisting students in meeting their goals,” said Dr. Wertz. “I always ask myself, ‘How will this benefit students?’ to ensure I’m focusing on the right thing. I was attracted to Edison State because I felt an energy for students, people, and making a difference that made me feel welcome and aligns with what I want to contribute to in my role. I’m looking forward to the future and all of the great things the College will do!”

EMPLOYEES HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE



Edison State Community College recognized 20 employees for a combined total of 160 years of service in their careers during its 44th annual

employee recognition celebration.

The honorees were recognized during an All-College Celebrations meeting and a special celebration held at the Columbus Zoo. Honorees received a monetary gift based on their years of service and up to four tickets to attend the event at the zoo. During the event, a catered lunch was provided for the honorees and their guests.

Edison State recognized the following employees for reaching significant milestones in their careers:

Twenty-Five Years: Rebecca Schinaman

Twenty Years: Julie Slattery

Ten Years: Veronica French, Beka Lindeman, William Loudermilk, Eric Rhoades, and Susie Staley

Five Years: Meghan Cotterman, Liz DuBois, Lisa Hall, John Hittepole, Janet Middendorf, Tony Muhlenkamp, Brian Murphy, Brandi Olberding, Enrique Rivera-Cerezo, Tucker Schneider, Denise Shaffer, Marissa Hill, and Laura Wetterer

Alumni Spotlight

Tim Barhorst: Representing the Region

By Samantha Wilt, Edison State Student

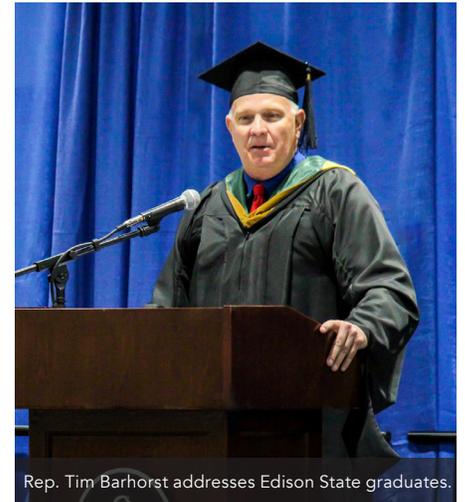
Edison State Community College is no stranger to talented and diligent individuals walking our halls and graduating across our stage. Today, we proudly shine the spotlight on one such alumnus, Tim Barhorst, who is now serving his first term as a representative for the State of Ohio (85th district). Barhorst sat down with *Wired* to talk about the memories he holds from his time at Edison State and explore how his upbringing made him into the person he is today.

Hailing from the small town of Newport, Ohio, and graduating from Fort Loramie High School, Barhorst was brought up understanding the principles of working hard. He began working at his family's business at age 12 and never slowed down. Barhorst chose Edison State to begin his educational path as it was local and offered a flexible schedule that could accommodate his working full time. He took night classes as he continued working long hours at the family business. When he first began taking classes, he was unsure what specific career path he wanted to pursue but knew he wanted to earn a business degree. After earning several credits from Edison State, he transferred to The Ohio State University, where he planned to complete his four-year degree. However, he found the institution to be too large, so he returned not long after. Upon graduating from Edison State, Barhorst continued his educational journey at Wright State University, where he earned his four-year degree.

Barhorst offered advice to students considering Edison State as their educational foundation. For those uncertain about their career paths, he encourages them to embrace the opportunity to explore various fields. He said, "If you do not know exactly what you want to do, use this as a way to figure it out, and once you figure it out, go for it."

Working full time while attending college instilled in Barhorst the importance of effective time management and a strong work ethic. These lessons have shaped his success not only as a state representative but also in his entrepreneurial endeavors. In addition to serving as a state representative, Barhorst has established a successful financial planning practice, specializing in employee benefit consulting, HR consulting, and health plans. Additionally, he owns a restaurant on Grand Lake Saint Marys, a venture he embarked upon during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Assuming the position as an Ohio State Representative in early 2023, Barhorst faces the challenge of collaborating with a group of colleagues, each advocating for their own beliefs. Positive teamwork, effective communication, and the ability to make tough decisions are essential qualities in his position. Barhorst credits his background in business, working with small- and medium-sized companies, and his experience in customer service for preparing him to manage the challenges



he faces in this role.

Despite his demanding schedule, Barhorst understands the importance of finding balance and creating time for the things he loves. He greatly values family, so much of his free time is spent with the important people in his life. He enjoys spending time with his son and boating on Grand Lake Saint Marys. Barhorst also arranges to have lunch with his friends from high school every Friday. His love for his family is a great motivator for his work as a representative. He stated, "You're trying to leave your kids and grandkids a productive and good future. It's one of the main things I think about as I'm making these decisions."

Barhorst has a special perspective of Edison State as a former student and a state representative. When asked how he feels about Edison State, Barhorst showed praise for the College's programs. "Edison State gives you what the job market actually needs."

As we celebrate the accomplishments of Barhorst, let us also recognize the role of Edison State in shaping the lives of countless students. When asked if he had any advice for recent graduates, he emphasized the importance of hard work and dedication, encouraging them to excel and work hard in whatever path they choose. By consistently showing up, leading, and being proactive, graduates can set themselves apart and make a lasting impact. He shared, "Show up to whatever you choose to do and be a leader!"

Alumni Highlights



BETH KAUFMAN
1995

Beth Kaufman graduated from Edison State in 1995 after completing an Associate of Science. She decided to start her college career at Edison State since it was close to home. She holds great memories of being a player for Edison State's women's basketball team and spending time connecting with her teammates when they took trips for various games, which included lots of good laughter and team comradery! Kaufman now works as an Intervention Aide at Hilliard City Schools in Columbus. Kaufman says Edison State prepared her to work with students so they can better understand their classwork. When asked about her thoughts on Edison State, she said it's "a great place to find your forever friends." Kaufman has been married for 23 years to her husband Greg and has three children, Audrey, Kira, and Mason.



BROOKE RUHENKAMP
2015

Brooke Ruhenkamp's college career began while she was still a student in high school. Early on, she had the goal of earning a four-year degree and knew taking college classes at Edison State would reduce the overall financial cost. By completing prerequisites while still in high school, she was able to graduate with her bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in only five semesters! Ruhenkamp has worked at Midmark for over three years as a Human Resource Business Partner. The support she received from Edison State's staff on campus helped guide her confidently through the transition to a four-year university. She now serves as a member of The Edison Foundation Board. Ruhenkamp states, "Edison State truly wants to see their students succeed. The faculty, staff, and advisors are there to help and do so with great compassion!"



SCOTT SHEEHAN
2019

Scott Sheehan decided to attend Edison State as it was conveniently located near where he lived and worked. While working toward a degree in business management/human resource management, Sheehan built a professional resume and conducted practice interviews held on campus. He states that this was extremely helpful in advancing his career! A special memory he has relates to a statistics course he took. The class was quite challenging since he never had to take algebra in high school, but he worked diligently, dedicating many extra hours to studying with classmates, and was so happy when he passed the course. Sheehan shared, "After earning my degree, I applied for a first shift Production Coordinator job at Hobart Brothers in Troy that had a large, competitive applicant pool and prevailed." Sheehan has three children and enjoys attending car shows and staying active in the community.



CHRISTY WORTHINGTON
1994

Christy Worthington was originally contacted by Edison State to play for the women's basketball team. At the time, she was on a waitlist with an organization that had a Diagnostic Imaging Program. She decided to complete her prerequisites and play on the team while she was waiting for a spot in that program. By attending Edison State first, she significantly lightened her course load, which also allowed her to work while completing the imaging program. Worthington shares that she made wonderful lifelong friends and enjoyed being part of the team and her two years at Edison State. Worthington states, "My Edison State friends were like family to me!" She now works as a Cardiac Sonographer in the Cardiac Treatment Center at Lima Memorial Hospital. Worthington's husband is named Geoff and together they share a son, have three small dogs, and enjoy camping in the summer.

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.

Military Service Flag Dedication



Members of the Ft. Loramie Sons of American Legion Post and Auxiliary Post are presented with plaques.



Chris Spradlin is presented with a military coin by Tom Hemmelgarn for his support of veterans.



Edison State Community College saluted the contributions of military personnel and veterans during a recent Military Service Flag Dedication. The display, which has been placed outside the Veterans' Lounge at the Piqua Campus, includes the flags of the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force, as well as the POW/MIA and United States flags.

The project was spearheaded by Edison State student and Vietnam Veteran Tom Hemmelgarn.

"I've enjoyed working on this project, but it's really for the veterans," said Hemmelgarn. "One of the things that struck me is that with all of the veteran organizations I went to, I never had to ask for a dime. They pitched in without even asking. I'd also like to thank S&S Flags in Troy, who assisted in getting the flags here. Most of all, I'd like to thank my brother and sister veterans. Without them, none of this would even be possible."

During the ceremony, Hemmelgarn also presented Edison State President Chris Spradlin with a military coin for his support of veterans.

"We're so grateful to honor our veterans," Spradlin said. "We admire the veterans here at the College; we admire their dedication, self-sacrifice, discipline, and honor they've displayed in serving our country. And the great thing is, we get to see those characteristics come on campus, and they enrich our campus environment."

The flag display at Edison State was made possible by donations from local veteran organizations and leaders, including Piqua VFW Post 4874; Fort Loramie Sons of the American Legion Post; Fort Loramie Auxiliary American Legion Post; Greenville VFW Post 7262; and the Versailles military veteran community, including American Legion Post 435, American Legion Auxiliary Unity 435, and Sons of American Legion Post 435.

Established on Veterans Day of 2010, Edison State's Veterans' Lounge provides a quiet place for veterans to study or relax and is equipped with a television, microwave, refrigerator, computer, reading materials, and more.

As part of its dedication to service members, the College offers veterans a designated advisor, flexible course and degree options, access to the Ohio Veterans Resource Guide, and priority registration that allows veterans to register for classes early. Edison State also holds a Collegiate Purple Star Award designation for providing a supportive and inclusive environment for military-connected students.

For additional information about the services and amenities available to veterans at Edison State, visit www.edisonohio.edu/veterans or contact Joe Ratermann, Career Pathways Advisor and Veterans' Services Specialist, by emailing jratermann@edisonohio.edu or calling 937.778.7827.

ORGANIZATION FIELD TRIPS



Edison State faculty and staff tour Wilson Health.

To assist faculty and staff in becoming more aware of the companies and businesses in the area supporting Edison State, field trips are being arranged through the Workforce Development & Work-Based Learning Department. Each semester, a different trip is planned for college administrators, staff, and faculty. While at the various companies, participants get to see firsthand what the company produces or services offered, which will help Edison State to focus on

programs to meet their workforce needs.

Companies visited have included Marias Technologies in Covington; Airstream in Jackson Center; Wilson Health in Sidney; and American Trim in Sidney.

If you have an interest in having Edison State visit your companies, please contact Roger Fulk, Workforce Success Specialist, at 937.381.1547 or rfulk@edisonohio.edu.

Alumni & Friends Announcements

Updates

Hunter Bradburn of Greenville was sworn-in as a Troy Police Officer in Jan. 2023. Hunter graduated from Edison State's Ohio Peace Officer Academy.

Marcus Campos of Wapakoneta was sworn-in as a Wapakoneta Patrol Officer in Mar. 2023. Marcus graduated from Edison State's Ohio Peace Officer Academy.

Nicholas Freisthler of Sidney was promoted to Sergeant with Troy Police Department in Mar. 2023. Nicholas holds an associate degree in criminal justice from Edison State.

Zachary Smith of Piqua was sworn-in as a Piqua Police Officer in Jan. 2023. Zachary holds an associate degree in criminal justice and graduated from Edison State's Ohio Peace Officer Academy.

Retirements

Julie Slattery, Administrative Assistant to the V.P. of Business and Community Partnerships, retired in June. Julie is also an alumna of Edison State.

Laura Wetterer, Instructor of Phlebotomy, retired in May.

In Memoriam

Gail Lee of Troy passed away on Mar. 12, 2023. Gail was an alumna and employed by Edison State for more than 10 years in the admissions department.

Dolores Bey of Anna passed away on Jan. 9, 2023. Dolores received an associate degree in business from Edison State in 1999.

Marriage



Treyton and Kassidi Lavy of Piqua were married on Sept. 24, 2022. For their honeymoon, the Lavys rode a train to Washington State, where they visited a Bavarian village called Leavenworth. While there, they sampled amazing foods, hiked through Olympic National Park, and saw beautiful beaches across the west coast. They finished their honeymoon by driving down the coast to visit Redwood National Park. Kassidy is a 2019 graduate and current employee.

Baby Charger



Roxie Lou Guillozet, born Oct. 6, 2022, is the daughter of Seth and Macy Guillozet, who both attended Edison State. Macy is a current employee.

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

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Barth Honored with Excellence Award



Edison State Community College faculty member David Barth, of Troy, has been named a recipient of the Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award from the Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE).

Edison State nominated Barth for the award based on the institution's criteria, with special consideration of demonstrated excellence and awards received during the past academic year.

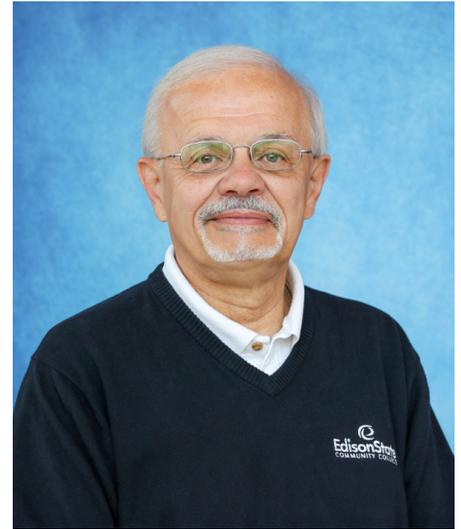
Barth, Professor of Electronics Engineering Technology, has been held in high regard by his students and fellow faculty members at Edison State. He has kept Edison State's engineering programs on the leading edge of automation and robotics instruction at the College's Piqua and Greenville locations, transporting lab equipment between locations to ensure robust offerings.

He has participated in many enrollment events, summer camps, Women in STEMM events, and other recruitment activities, using robots to help encourage individuals to pursue Engineering Technology. He teaches in academic and workforce development areas and has contributed significant expertise to local business partners through his instruction to students and industry partners. Barth has also supported students in battling robot competitions to build interest in the program and profession.

CHARGER COUNTRY EVENT

Alumni and friends came together to cheer on the Charger softball team during the latest Charger Country event. Fans enjoyed free food and drinks, Edison State alumni t-shirts, and the company of others.





Vince Miller— A Legacy of Giving

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College is honored to announce the establishment of the Vince Miller Family Scholarship. This legacy fund will continue to celebrate the life of Vince Miller, who passed away on October 30, 2022. Vince and his wife Bonnie created this scholarship fund to help ensure the support and future success of Edison State students.

Vince always had a passion for education and enjoyed exploring the world of science. After being raised in Troy, Ohio, he attended two universities to study engineering—The University of Cincinnati for his undergraduate degree and The Ohio State University, where he earned his master's degree. All who knew him can recall his great enthusiasm for anything Buckeye related! Vince's diligent academic work led him to become an

aeronautical engineer at the Air Force Research Laboratory at Wright Patterson Air Force Base. He had an admirable 36-year career in that role.

In 1980, Vince's journey as adjunct faculty began at Edison State when he started teaching mathematics courses. Vince was an extremely devoted faculty member who not only connected with students in the classroom but also volunteered his time for numerous events and committees to champion the mission of the College. He was also an active member of The Edison Foundation Board until his passing.

Vince was very dedicated to his family; when his daughters, Angela and Sara, were younger, he participated as a coach for various sporting teams and spent time supporting the Wayne Music Club. Contributing to good causes was part

of Vince's fabric, so he also dedicated much of his time to the Miami Valley Veterans Museum in Troy, Ohio. Vince also served as a treasurer and member for the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME), Dayton Section. Additionally, he ushered at The Ohio State University football games for 20 years.

Vince's friends and colleagues at Edison State will always treasure his positive spirit, generosity, commitment, and unwavering kindness. Through this scholarship fund, The Edison Foundation will continue what Vince valued—giving to others to make a positive impact. For those interested in celebrating Vince by contributing to the Vince Miller Family Scholarship, please call The Edison Foundation at 937.778.7805, email foundation@edisonohio.edu, or visit www.edisonohio.edu/donate.



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