



THE Link

Summer 2023

The Lakeland Community College Alumni & Friends Magazine

Vol. 5 Issue 1



Welcome to the Summer 2023 edition of The Link. July 1 marks the higher education sector's version of New Year's Day. This day ushers in a new fiscal year and offers a fresh start and a new beginning. Keeping with this theme, The Link will also receive a fresh start this year as it will become an annual publication, a change from its previous bi-annual distribution. This change will allow our teams to work throughout the year to gather content showcasing our alumni's successes and accomplishments, feature articles and stories, allowing readers to stay informed of the news and events at Lakeland Community College. We hope to inspire you with stories of the incredible work and achievements of your fellow graduates and college faculty and staff. Our goal is to encourage you to stay involved and connected with Lakeland Community College and your fellow Lakeland alumni.

In addition, I am pleased to announce that The Lakeland Foundation's Tina Baucher, Nancy Brooks and Rachel Siegel will now work together to coordinate our efforts for alumni relations, the alumni & friends network and the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame. Tina, Nancy and Rachel will strategize creatively and enthusiastically to bring together Lakeland students, alumni and community friends to support the college and the community we serve. The team's primary goal is facilitating a vibrant, active alumni community by creating various opportunities to engage with the Lakeland Alumni & Friends Network.

Lakeland Community College continues to flourish thanks to the dedication and resilience of our alumni. We have seen countless examples of our alumni positively impacting their professions and the communities they live in. As graduates of Lakeland, you are an integral part of our community, and we are proud of your accomplishments.

Thank you for your support and dedication to Lakeland Community College. We invite you to share your news and achievements with us. Please contact us with ideas or feedback on how we can better serve our alumni community. To connect with our alumni relations team, please contact Tina Baucher, associate director for development & alumni, at tbaucher1@lakelandcc.edu or 440.525.7103.

We look forward to staying in touch and seeing all that you will achieve in the future.

Wishing you a wonderful summer,

*Michael D. Thomas '85
Director, University Technology
Case Western Reserve University
The Lakeland Foundation Board of Directors, Alumni Representative*

Table of Contents

04

Intergenerational retirement community to open in fall 2023

06

A homecoming for Moore descendents

12

Lakeland President Dr. Morris W. Beverage Jr. to retire in 2024

13

Event highlights

16

Lakeland celebrates 56th annual commencement

20

Lakeland celebrates Juneteenth through art and performance

22

Lakeland alumni in the news

28

Lakeland's E-Building expansion

31

Lakeland's Veterans Center is on the move

33

The eagle has (almost) landed

34

Lakeland Cares Cupboard expands services

36

Lakeland awarded grant to improve equity in technology

37

The Lakeland Foundation 2022-2023 Board of Directors

38

Lakeland business alumni represented on Learn from Leaders panel





Intergenerational retirement community to open in fall 2023

Lakeland Community College is partnering with VITALIA®, a locally owned and operated 55-plus Lifestyle Living community, to create an intergenerational University based community at VITALIA®'s new location in Mentor, Ohio.

The site is adjacent to the Lakeland campus with accessibility from State Route 615 as well as Garfield Road. The 55-plus Lifestyle Living Community will consist of 150 VITALIA® apartments and up to 63 one-story

villa homes, which are marketed as The V Living Experience.

Occupancy of the two- and three-bedroom villas will begin in July 2023. A clubroom provides indoor and outdoor gathering spaces for the villa residents, along with the opportunity to utilize the main lodge at VITALIA®. The serene, wooded community includes streets named after Lakeland Presidents: Dr. Wayne L. Rodehorst (1967 – 1981), Willis P. Kern (1977), Dr. James L. Catanzaro (1981-1987), and Dr. Morris W. Beverage Jr. (2001 to present). Dr. Ralph R. Doty served as president from 1988-2001, however there is already a road named Doty in Lake County.

The Independent Living, Assisted Living and Memory Care apartments are scheduled for occupancy this fall with studio, one- and two-bedroom apartment options available. Common areas will include spaces such as an indoor pool, exercise room, salon, game room and theater. Transportation and restaurant-style meals are also offered to residents.

The goal of the community is to increase intergenerational relationships by providing positive interactions for both students and residents. Residents will be able to enroll in Lakeland courses and many other four-year college offerings at Lakeland's Holden University Center. Some of

these opportunities will include attending performances at the Dr. Wayne L. Rodehorst Performing Arts Center and the use of Lakeland recreational facilities.

Residents of other VITALIA® communities in the area are already coming to the HIVE Makerspace at Lakeland. “The residents love being able to personalize objects such as glassware with their names or quotes,” said Mark Gregg, Resident Ambassador of VITALIA®.

Lakeland students have opportunities for employment at VITALIA® and will be able to engage in meaningful mentoring relationships with both residents and staff within the community. In addition, some student employees may have the opportunity to live at VITALIA® while completing their degree.

The partnership also provides the option for residents, including Lakeland alumni, to return to the campus environment. “Lakeland is all about promoting lifelong learning in our community,” said Morris W. Beverage Jr., president of Lakeland. “This partnership with Vitalia offers personal enrichment and volunteer opportunities for residents and mentoring and employment opportunities for our students. Both will benefit by learning from other generations.”

University partnerships are a growing trend in the 55-plus housing industry, with similar communities established at

Stanford University, Arizona State University, Oberlin College and Purchase College, to name a few.

“Association with other generations offers new perspectives and experiences not readily available in today’s society,” said Mario Sinicariello, president of VITALIA®. “For example, Lakeland students could engage with our residents for music or theater, and our Vitalia residents could share their wisdom from a lifetime of experiences they have lived firsthand. Both generations can see the world in a new and energizing light.”

Additional programming will include trips to museums, concerts, theater and other cultural and recreational activities throughout greater Cleveland.

For more information on VITALIA® and The V Living Experience, please contact the team at 440-534-8203 or visit VitaliaMentor.com.





Top photo: David Forbes-Watkins, grandson of Edward W. Moore Sr., with his wife Eileen and their family visit Mooreland Mansion.
Front Row L to R: Audrey Lang, Eileen Forbes-Watkins, Sophia Lang.
Back Row L to R: Danny Lang, Lindsay Lang, David Forbes-Watkins, Andrew Forbes-Watkins, Jennifer Forbes-Watkins.

Bottom Photo: David Forbes-Watkins, grandson of Edward W. Moore Sr. and Louise Chamberlin Moore.



A Homecoming for Moore Descendants

Standing in the driveway of Mooreland Mansion on the campus of Lakeland Community College, David Forbes-Watkins was flush with memories from the time he spent as a child at his grandparents' summer home. "You used to be able to see part of the house from I-90," he remarked, gesturing to the grounds directly across the street from the mansion which have since grown thick with foliage. He turned again to face the frontage of the house where he used to mow the old lawn, now landscaped and fresh for the summer event season, and exclaimed, "Just wonderful!"

David is the son of Elizabeth (Moore) Forbes-Watkins, who was the third daughter and youngest child of prominent Cleveland capitalist Edward W. Moore Sr. and his wife, Louise Chamberlin Moore. It was Moore and his business partner, Henry Everett, who purchased the Eber Norton Farm in 1897 and hired architect Arthur N. Oviatt to design adjoining estates on the land. Moore's property, known as "Mooreland," was completed in 1900.

David and his wife, Eileen, last visited Mooreland about 12 years ago with the former executive director of The Lakeland Foundation, Bob Cahen. In March 2023, he reached out again to the Foundation to ask whether he might return with his children and grandchildren to see their ancestors' estate. A plan was hatched for a family "reunion" June 27, hosted by the Foundation's executive director Greg Sanders and staff.

This visit to Mooreland brought David's immediate family together from New York, California, and Texas for the first time in many years. Joining David and Eileen were son Andrew and his wife Jennifer, daughter Lindsay and her husband Danny, and granddaughters Sophia and Audrey.

Now in his 80s, David's memory of Mooreland as a child is keen and capacious. The group's tour of the

property that morning began the moment he stepped out of the car. David expertly led his family and the Foundation staff around the mansion and grounds, from the attic to the basement to the borders of the formal gardens, pointing out structures of the original property that still exist and providing spatial orientation for features that are long gone. "Over that way, where the parking lot is," he gestured past the west end of the mansion, "there was a 10-car garage, and there were some smaller houses for workers and their families. There was also a barn that burned down, unfortunately."

David's grandfather established Mooreland as his family's Lake County retreat to escape the summer heat and congestion of the city, as did the Rockefellers, the Boltons, and other prominent Cleveland figures of that era. The original estate consisted of more than 1,000 bucolic acres, stretching from its north entrance on Route 20 across the border of Mentor and Kirtland and southward to the bluffs overlooking the east branch of the Chagrin River. Architect J. Milton Dyer was commissioned to expand the estate in 1906, almost doubling its size. The property featured four smaller working farms, henneries and piggeries, herds of livestock, and a roadside fruit stand near the entrance, from which apples and other produce grown on the property were sold. Mrs. Louise Moore planted



Mooreland's beautiful gardens, designed by landscape architect A. Donald Gray, and kept meticulous records of her process. When Mr. Moore died in 1928, the family moved from their Euclid Avenue home in University Circle to live at Mooreland permanently.

For all their success, the Moores were not immune to tragedy. Both of their sons - David's uncles - suffered untimely deaths. Franklin Moore was 47 and had been married only two months when he was struck by a car as he crossed

the road near the estate's fruit stand with a basket of apples grown from the orchards. Edward Moore Jr., aged just 17, died suddenly after experiencing a medical emergency while swimming at University School where he was a student. David's mother Elizabeth was 15 at the time; as the youngest two of the five Moore children, they had been close. She felt his loss keenly.

David's adult children, Lindsay and Andrew, were still quite young when they last visited



Mooreland for their great-aunt Margaret Moore Clark's funeral. "Aunt Marg" was the eldest of the Moore children and lived at Mooreland until her death in 1982 as a condition of sale for 400 acres of the Moore property, including the mansion, in 1968 to Lakeland Community College. They remember the rooms on both floors of the east side of the house being curtained off and used for storage, full of "stuff" and old furniture covered in sheets "like you'd see in a movie." Thanks to the near-Herculean efforts over 10

years of a team led by college and community members to develop plans, fundraise, scrub, paint and plant, Mooreland was renovated and opened in 1998 as a conference and event center operated by the college.

David, though, remembers Mooreland closer to its heyday. As the group explored the house, he explained which of the current offices and conference areas had been family bedrooms and how layouts were altered to reconfigure spaces. He recalled how often



the second floor “sleeping porch” at the end of the east wing, with a picturesque view of what had been the swimming pool and its neoclassic columns and statuary, was used in the summer months. The pool was also perfect for his fraternity’s parties, he said, and the younger family members sometimes held dances in the huge attic that stretches the length of the house.

When asked about his interest in the Moore family’s history, David replied wryly, “I am the family’s history!” Walking through the house, features would spark a twinkle in David’s eye. The house’s massive main safe, for example, was inaccessible for a period of time following his uncle Franklin Moore’s death in 1941, as Franklin was the only one who knew the combination. David speculated that the family was hoping to find “gold bullion” or other treasures socked away by Edward Moore Sr., so a company from Cleveland was hired in the 1950s to open the safe. What did they find? “Booze,” said David. The safe was full of prohibition-era wine and alcohol, much of which had since turned or evaporated.

After their tour, David and his family shared lunch and enjoyed time together privately in the

mansion’s Restoration Room. Their trip to Northeast Ohio included a stop at Lake View Cemetery to see the austere and impressive Moore mausoleum where Mr. and Mrs. Moore and their children are interred, with other Moore relations nearby. They planned next to see Lawnfield, the home of President James A. Garfield, and would travel to Youngstown to visit extended family before returning home to their respective ends of the country.

David expressed his pleasure at seeing Mooreland again and his appreciation for all the work done by college staff, the Mooreland Restoration Garden Club and volunteers who work diligently to keep the property beautiful and thriving. The mansion and grounds, which saw many Moore family weddings and events in its prime, continues to serve the region as a place of gathering, celebration and joy – much as intended.

Standing on the veranda behind the house and looking across the expanse of the lawn and gardens, David declared with satisfaction, “Mrs. Moore and Margaret would be delighted.”

“David declared with satisfaction, ‘Mrs. Moore and Margaret would be delighted.’”



Lakeland President Dr. Morris W. Beverage Jr. to retire in 2024

Lakeland Community College President Dr. Morris W. Beverage Jr. announced to the college community in February his intent to retire Aug. 15, 2024. Dr. Beverage became Lakeland's fifth president in 2001 when he was appointed to succeed Dr. Ralph Doty.

Dr. Beverage said he chose to announce his retirement at this time so that the college's board of trustees will have ample time to conduct a search and to ensure

a smooth transition. On Jan. 5, the board of trustees approved a rolling three-year contract for Dr. Beverage, which either party could end with a 12-month notice.

"I will provide whatever assistance I can in making sure the president to follow me will be the best and the brightest to lead Lakeland into the future," said Beverage. "Our students, community and employees deserve no less. Until then, we still have much to accomplish," he added.

A 1974 graduate of Lakeland, Dr. Beverage served as the college's treasurer and chief fiscal officer for nearly 11 years before being appointed president. He was inducted into the inaugural class of the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame in 2006.

In an email sent Feb. 14 to Lakeland employees, the board of trustees and The Lakeland Foundation Board of Directors, Lakeland Board of Trustees chair Jerrie Lee Rispoli remarked, "Dr. Beverage will have served the college for over 33 years, and we are incredibly grateful for his many accomplishments which helped make Lakeland the top-notch institution that it is today. We appreciate Dr. Beverage's assistance as the board begins a search in the coming months for the college's sixth president."

The Lakeland Foundation and Lakeland Alumni & Friends Network event highlights



Retirees luncheon – Aug. 17, 2022

Approximately 60 former Lakeland staff and faculty returned to campus as guests of The Lakeland Foundation for a Lakeland Retiree Luncheon Aug. 17, 2022, in the H-Building atrium. Lakeland's current president, Dr. Morris Beverage, Jr., and Lakeland's first president, Dr. Wayne Rodehorst, were both in attendance. Precious time was shared catching up with friends and former colleagues whose dedication over the years helped to shape Lakeland as we know it today.



GradFest – April 17-18, 2023

Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame members representing the Lakeland Alumni & Friends Network welcomed their soon-to-be fellow alumni at the college's 2023 GradFest April 17-18, 2023. This is an annual event leading up to commencement at which Lakeland students who are

preparing to graduate can pick up their caps and gowns, tassels, commencement tickets, learn about support services post-graduation and much more. The Alumni Hall of Fame members participated as part of a collaboration between The Lakeland Foundation and HIVE makerspace, led by The Lakeland Foundation's design and innovation specialist, Rachel Siegel.

Our thanks to the following Alumni Hall of Fame members for their support during the two-day event:

Robin Baum, LCC '98, HOF '12; Dr. Morris Beverage Jr., LCC '74, HOF '06; Steve Gagliardi, LCC '97, HOF '21; Beth Knezevich, LCC '96, HOF '19; Bob Martin, LCC '71, HOF '09; Kip Molenaar, LCC '75, HOF '06; Andie Musial, LCC '03, HOF '22; John Paganini, LCC '81, HOF '18; Christine Price, LCC '71, HOF '20; Greg Sanders, LCC '92, HOF '14; Mike Thomas, LCC '85, HOF '19; Christine Weber, LCC '87, HOF '18; Mary Wynne-Peaspanen, LCC '78, HOF '18; Bob Zonneville, LCC '19, HOF '19.





Photo caption: Mary Hussain, recipient of the Honors Program Scholarship and Nel Speros Scholarship, speaks at the 2023 Donor-Scholar Breakfast.



Donor-Scholar Breakfast – April 5, 2023

Approximately 100 donors, students, board members and friends came together for The Lakeland Foundation’s annual Donor-Scholar Breakfast April 5, 2023, to celebrate the accomplishments of Lakeland students who have benefited from donor-funded scholarship and program support. Student speakers Mary Hussain, Luis Arroyo and Rachel Lacroix shared their Lakeland stories and thanked donors for the opportunities made possible through their philanthropy, while Foundation board member and donor Rich Iafelice spoke about the importance of student success to the well-being of our entire community. The event was hosted by Foundation board chair, Ka-Pi Hoh, and remarks were made by Elia De La Garza, Lakeland’s Hispanic program

coordinator, Ryan Eubank, welding and fabrication technology program coordinator, Lakeland’s president Dr. Morris Beverage Jr., and Foundation executive director Greg Sanders.

View the video of the event [here](#).



Alumni Hall of Fame 2022 inductions – May 2, 2023

Four distinguished Lakeland alums were inducted into the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame’s class of 2022 during a ceremony held at Mooreland Mansion May 2, 2023. The annual ceremony and event, postponed from its original date in October, welcomed alumni, families and guests to celebrate and honor our inductees for their outstanding representation as Lakeland alums in their professions, through their service and leadership efforts in the community, and their continued support of Lakeland. The class



of 2022 inductees were Teresa Cowan-Christen, Psy.D. '99; Andrea Musial, Ph.D. '03; Deborah A. Vitantonio, DNP, RN '81; Michael Zuren, Ph.D. '88.

[Click here](#) to read the bios for our class of 2022 inductees.

Watch the Class of 2022 Induction Ceremony [here](#).

Laker Scramble Golf Outing – June 9, 2023

The Lakeland Foundation hosted another record-breaking event June 9, 2023, with the 32nd Annual Laker Scramble Golf Outing at Fowler's Mill Golf Course in Chesterland. A sold-out field of 216 golfers spent a beautiful day on the links, from which a total of \$78,230 was raised. Special thanks to presenting sponsor University Hospitals and to all of our other

sponsors, volunteers, and staff for making it a great day for the benefit of our students. Congratulations to the winning teams:

Lake/River: University Hospitals

River/Maple: Sherman Boseman Legal Group

Maple/Lake: Coca-Cola Bottling Company Consolidated



Photo caption: Members of The Lakeland Foundation board, Alumni Hall of Fame and college staff were among the guests celebrating the class of 2022 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees. L to R - Jon Snyder, John Paganini, Don Dailey, Ka-Pi Hoh, Dave Enzerra, Mike Thomas.





Lakeland celebrates 56th annual commencement with Romona Robinson as keynote speaker

Saturday, May 13, marked the 56th annual commencement at Lakeland Community College, which returned to its in-person ceremony on campus in the impressive outdoor pavilion for the second year since 2019. Eight-time Emmy Award-winning journalist, philanthropist and entrepreneur Romona Robinson served as this year's keynote speaker.

In a stirring and inspiring address, Ms. Robinson drew on her 30 years of public speaking experience and background as one of the most well-respected and admired journalists in Northeast Ohio to compel Lakeland's graduating class to always believe in themselves and to never let the opinions of others lead them to doubt their own capacity for success. "Believe that you can succeed. Believe in that degree that you will get today. Believe in all that knowledge that your professors here have instilled in you. Believe that you are enough in this world," she said.

As Ms. Robinson concluded her remarks, she shared a particularly meaningful anecdote. She had been scheduled earlier that week for a planned medical procedure about which she felt very anxious. As the operating room staff at a prestigious Cleveland-area hospital prepared her for surgery, she was reassured by the kind, comforting care of the "wonderful" nursing staff.



One nurse engaged Ms. Robinson in conversation to help calm her nerves, asking her, "Romona, what are you doing now, since you left television?"

Ms. Robinson replied that she is an author and a public speaker. "As a matter of fact," she said, "on Saturday I'm the commencement speaker at Lakeland Community College."

"Oh my!" the nurse exclaimed, "I graduated from Lakeland in the nursing program many years ago!"

Ms. Robinson then turned from the podium to Lakeland's president, Dr. Morris Beverage Jr., and said, "I'm telling you, Dr. Beverage, if you're putting them out like that, there's a lot to be said for Lakeland!"

Lakeland's 2023 commencement by the numbers

- 664 students received associate degrees; 68 earned multiple degrees.
- The oldest graduate was 69; the youngest was 15.
- 67 College Credit Plus students (62 seniors, three juniors, two sophomores) representing 18 high schools and one home school graduated.
- 27 are military veterans.
- 193 are first generation college graduates.
- Holden University Center graduates from four-year partner colleges and universities numbered 67 undergraduate and 30 graduate students.
- Lakeland's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award for a member of the community, was presented to Dr. Kathleen Malec, for her career dedicated to the health of the Lake County community. Dr. Malec is a longtime member of the Lakeland board of trustees, former professor in Lakeland's nursing department and former administrator at Breckenridge Village, from where she retired.

“The Lakeland community truly feels like family and being there to celebrate and congratulate the newest alumni immediately helps them see that connection.”

Dr. Beverage shared in his commencement address that the class of 2023 now joins the network of over 33,000 Lakeland alumni. “Every one of you sitting in front of me is the future of our community. Lakeland has prepared you to do great things. We look forward to seeing the positive impact that you will make in our neighborhoods, our cities, our region and our country,” he remarked.

To watch the complete video of Lakeland's 2023 commencement ceremony, [click here](#).

Lakeland Hall of Fame members welcome the graduating class of 2023 to the alumni family

Christine Weber, John Hamercheck and Mike Zuren

represented the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame and the Alumni & Friends Network at Lakeland's 56th annual commencement Ceremony, welcoming the newest class of graduates to the Lakeland alumni “family.” The three were the first to greet the graduating students descending the ramp from the stage with diplomas and certificates, congratulating each of their new fellow alumni on their academic success with a beaming smile and a warm handshake.

“Commencement is my favorite alumni activity, and I was honored to participate in this year's ceremony. Watching students walk across the stage and receive their diploma is an exciting moment.” shared Weber. “The Lakeland community truly feels like family and being there to celebrate and congratulate the newest alumni immediately helps them see that connection.”



Photo caption: Alumni Hall of Fame members welcomed Lakeland's class of 2023 to the alumni "family" at commencement.

L to R - Mike Zuren (LCC '88, HOF '22) Christine Weber (LCC '87, HOF '18), John Hamercheck (LCC '87, HOF '17).



Photo caption: Lakeland Diversity Committee members and Juneteenth 2023 program co-chairs Mary Goss-Hill and Connie Bowler.

Lakeland celebrates Juneteenth through art and performance

Lakeland Community College's Diversity Committee sponsored activities and events in June 2023 to celebrate Juneteenth through dance, song and visual arts. Additional funding for the events was provided by The Lakeland Foundation.

Juneteenth, a contraction of "June" and "nineteenth," commemorates the date in 1865 when Union troops were dispatched to Galveston, TX, to issue General Order No. 3, announcing the end of the war and freedom by executive decree to more than 250,000 Black people who were still being held in slavery two and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation officially freed all enslaved people elsewhere in the U.S. in 1863.

Lakeland's HIVE hosted open sessions June 20, with hands-on activities that honored the styles of American artists Kara Walker and Bisa Butler, both of whom have explored historical and

contemporary African American experiences and identities through their art. Kara Walker, a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, has worked across visual and performance mediums but is perhaps best known for her tableaux of black cut-paper silhouettes. Bisa Butler is an award-winning textile artist and collagist who specializes in vibrant, life-sized quilted portraits. Both artists have been exhibited worldwide.

On June 30, the community was invited to celebrate Freedom Day at Lakeland with an evening of song, dance, poetry, spoken word and visual art in the Dr. Wayne L. Rodehorst Performing Arts Center. The free event was open to the public and featured a notable lineup that included professional dancer Nehemiah Spencer and Reflections Dance Theater Company, poet Siaara Freeman, vocalist Raven Rae and visual artist Courtney Hamlett.

ABOUT LAKELAND'S DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Diversity Committee plays a key role in administering programs and addressing challenges. The purpose of the Diversity Committee is to advise the president of the college regarding diversity and equal opportunity issues, and to facilitate programs and services that meet the changing needs of individuals in a diverse community.

Attendees of all ages came from across the area and showered the event with praise. Glenna D. Reynolds, a 2016 Lakeland graduate, said, "The essence of this event showed me pride and gratitude from the "breaking of chains" to the soulful melodies of songs. Excellent performance."

Lakeland sociology professor Michelle Smith attended the event with family. "This was my mom's first visit to LCC's campus," she said. "At 86, she was inspired by the performances and learned a lot about a piece of U.S. history that was never taught during her days in school. The Diversity Committee knocked it out of the park with this program....Thanks for providing important educational and arts programming for both LCC and the community."

Audience member Del Sanderson commented, "I believe that the Juneteenth event was meticulously organized, exceptionally interesting and highly informative.

The performers showcased remarkable talent, and what I found particularly captivating was the video presentation. It deeply touched me. I would like to express my gratitude for organizing such inclusive programs that foster unity among people."

Diversity Committee members Connie Bowler and Mary Goss-Hill led the programming efforts for Juneteenth at Lakeland. "I definitely would like to thank the Diversity Committee for their vote of confidence," Mary remarked.

LAKELAND ALUMNI IN THE NEWS

Lakeland nursing alum rises to leadership position with University Hospitals Lake West

*Anthony Stachnik, BSN, RN, CCRN
- Lakeland class of 2003*

University Hospitals (UH) recently announced the appointments of two new chief nursing officers (CNOs) for their Beachwood, Lake West and TriPoint medical centers. Lakeland graduate Anthony Stachnik, BSN, RN, CCRN, was named CNO of UH Lake West and began his new position March 12, 2023.

According to a news release, Anthony began his career at UH Cleveland Medical Center in 2003 as a critical care bedside nurse in the cardiovascular intensive care unit (CICU) and rapid response team. He has served in many nursing management roles at UH over the last 13 years, most recently as acute care nursing director for inpatient floors, critical care and UH system dialysis services. He worked with UH teams to achieve strong patient experience scores

and multiple awards through the American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

A graduate of Lakeland Community College, Ohio University and the UH Leadership Institute, Anthony has benefited throughout his nursing career from the UH clinical ladder and career-building opportunities. He has been honored by the Greater Cleveland Nurses Association twice for Faces of Care and Aspiring Nurse Leader. He is active in the community of Euclid, where he coaches baseball, serves as commissioner of the community baseball league and has been honored as Citizen of Year.

Regarding UH's newly appointed CNOs, Ashley Carlucci, MSN, MHA, RN, CEN, Chief Nursing Officer, UH East & West Markets, stated in the release, "These leaders are dedicated to providing excellence in human caring through high quality interactions and by providing healthy work environments. They are also immersed in local organizations and strive to better their communities. Our UH East Market



leadership team is honored to have them join us."

Robyn Strosaker, M.D., FAAP, president and chief operating officer, UH Beachwood, Lake West and TriPoint Medical Centers, added, "These strong nursing leaders bring a wide breadth of strategic and operational experience and a strong track record of success to our community hospitals that will help us continue to strengthen the UH health system."

Read the full release [here](#).

Former student credits Lakeland's Model U.N./NATO experience as "formative" in career with international impact

Terence A. Check Jr., J.D.

Dr. Jennifer E. Nalmpantis, professor of history and chair of Lakeland's macro social sciences department, recently heard from former student Terence A. (Terry)

Check Jr., J.D., who shared an update on his work as senior counsel for international law and infrastructure security in the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Office of Chief Counsel.

During his time as a Lakeland student, Terry worked with Dr. Nalmpantis as an assistant in the International Center when she served as its director. He was also a Model U.N./Model NATO member and participant, serving as Lakeland's delegate to the NATO Youth Summit in Chicago in 2012.

"I wanted to let you know that your teaching and your work to organize Model U.N./NATO has had a lasting impact on my career," Terry said to Dr. Nalmpantis. "When students ask me how I got my start in my career or when I'm on a panel, I always cite those formative experiences in the late 00s/early 10s, particularly that youth summit in Chicago in 2012. One of my recent accomplishments was as a [lead agency negotiator on a U.S. delegation to Japan and a lead drafter of a new arrangement](#)

Terry Check (far right) served as Lakeland's delegate to the NATO Youth Summit in Chicago in 2012.

[for cybersecurity cooperation](#). I wanted to express my appreciation for you providing a positive environment to learn, grow and thrive as a scholar and potential shaper of world affairs.”

“A Lakeland education and participation in the Model U.N./ NATO program has given our students a powerful start in their lives and careers,” Dr. Nalmpantis added when she shared Terry’s news with Lakeland’s Alumni & Friends Network.

In his role with the DHS’s CISA Office of Chief Counsel, Terry manages CISA’s repository of legal authorities and advises on constitutional and national security law issues in support to CISA’s critical infrastructure security mission, particularly on information-sharing, data protection, school safety and counter-terrorism issues.

He has published several works of legal scholarship in the areas of cybersecurity, international and national security law and has been a speaker at CyberRisk Alliance’s Official Cyber Security Summit. An adjunct professor at Cleveland State University, Terry graduated magna cum laude from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law with his J.D. and from American University with his LL.M and currently sits on the [National Advisory Board for the Cleveland State University Center for Cybersecurity and Data Privacy](#).

All of Terry’s statements are made solely in his personal capacity and do not represent or reflect the views of any of his institutions.

Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame members work with nonprofits to help bridge the digital divide in Lake County

Robin Baum Lakeland class of 1998; HOF class of 2012

John Paganini Lakeland class 1981; HOF class of ’2018

Lakeland Alumni and Hall of Fame members take Lakeland’s core values to heart when it comes to giving back to the residents of Lake County. Both Robin and John volunteer with nonprofit organizations that have local and national impact on efforts to promote digital access and equity while focusing on sustainability and reducing e-waste.

The organizations, the [Wisdom Collaborative](#) and [PCs for People](#), launched a new partnership in April 2023 to “bridge the digital divide” in Lake County by providing low-income residents with high-quality, low-cost computers, internet access and digital skills classes. In April 2023, the groups partnered to present a public [“Lunch and Learn” virtual event](#) for Lake County leaders, businesses, and interested community members about this initiative to address digital equity and inclusion in Lake County.

According to John, a Wisdom Collaborative board member and

program chair, “The digital divide is the gap between those who have access to technology and those who don’t. The goal is to have digital equity across Lake County. The work we are doing today is called ‘digital inclusion’ which ensures that all individuals in Lake County have equal access to digital technologies and resources.”

The Wisdom Collaborative defines “digital equity” as a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy. “Digital inclusion” refers to the activities necessary to ensure that all individuals and communities, including the most disadvantaged, have access to and use of information and communication technologies. These include affordable, robust broadband internet service; internet-enabled devices that meet the needs of the user; access to digital literacy training; quality technical support; and applications and online content designed to enable and encourage self-sufficiency, participation and collaboration.

The Wisdom Collaborative’s board chair Dale Stefancic emphasized during the virtual

event how the last few years have altered the digital landscape for everyone while accelerating digital inequity for low-income households and families in particular. “I think everybody knows since COVID-19 hit, it changed our lives most likely forever,” he said, “...how we performed at our jobs, where we worked our jobs, how our kids went to school, if we needed to go to the doctor, if we needed to get groceries...it became even a more online world than it ever was before.”

“We’re all working together to bridge this digital divide.”

The most recent [U.S. Census American Community Survey](#) in 2021 estimates that 6.9% of Lake County residents do not own a computer and 10.4% of the Lake County population do not have a broadband internet subscription. The survey also estimates that 13% of residents aged 65+ do not own computer technology.

[PCs for People’s Cleveland location](#) on St. Clair Avenue and E. 31st Street functions both as its recycling facility and retail store and has served the State of Ohio since 2018. Quoting Lt. Governor John Husted on the organization’s webpage for its Cleveland location about the importance of this effort, “We’re all working together to bridge this digital divide. PCs for

People is a growing partnership with the State of Ohio to help get more internet access, to get more internet-ready devices out to the public so we can close that digital divide. You cannot participate in the modern economy, the modern education system, or the modern health care system without it. The State of Ohio and PCs for People are working together to solve that problem.”

Rick Penny, chief information officer for administrative computing and information technology at Lakeland, serves as a committee member for the Wisdom Collaborative’s Digital Equity and Inclusion project. The college also collaborates on efforts to make the services of PCs for People available locally and help address the digital gap for Lake County residents.

“This worthy cause will help Lakeland’s outreach programs get technology directly into the hands of the people that we work with,” said Rick. “To help jump-start this program, Lakeland started donating our used computers and laptops to PCs for People so that they can refurbish them and provide them back to the community.”

“They sell computers from their St. Clair Avenue facility, but they also bring computers out to Lake County in a ‘pop-up-shop’ format, with a truck to collect donated computers,” says Robin Baum. “They are the only organization that currently provides refurbished,

low-to-no-cost computer hardware in Lake County.”

Robin, like John, is passionate about this initiative. She remarked that PCs for People wants to establish relationships with Lake County businesses to develop a pathway for donating their usable computer hardware that can be refurbished and made available to residents in Lake County who need them. “They like to source the systems in the communities that will get them back,” she said - a priority which is also key in this partnership for the members of the Wisdom Collaborative.

“Their program has three parts - sourcing the used computers from area businesses and organizations, recycling unusable hardware to reduce landfill waste, and working toward digital equity by providing low-to-no-cost computers and Wi-Fi access,” Robin explained. “Used, out-of-date systems that still work for refurbishing are securely ‘wiped’ using a certified process, so no business is at risk of losing intellectual property from any computer. Then they rebuild them with parts donated by individuals, organizations and businesses, and sell them at very low cost to financially qualified people/families.”

The Wisdom Collaborative is a 501(c)(3) organization formed in 2021 by a group of citizens aged 50+ with a desire to share their professional expertise and collaborate with community stakeholders to identify needs



Robin Baum LCC '98; HOF '12
John Paganini LCC '81; HOF '18

and improve the quality of life for all Lake County residents. In 2022, the group added an initiative to increase digital equity and inclusion for residents who cannot afford adequate computer hardware, software and internet connectivity yet require it for work, health, education or socialization.

PCs for People is a national organization that started in 1998 in Mankato, MN as a one-person initiative to provide computers to children in need. It has since expanded to nine physical locations, including Cleveland and an online presence in all 50 states. Its mission states, “Through electronic reuse, PCs for People provides the opportunity for all individuals, families and nonprofits with low income to benefit from the life-changing impact of computers, internet, and digital skills.”

Want to learn more about donating used equipment, eligibility to apply for this program or recycling e-waste? Please [click here](#) for more information.

[Read more about the collaborative effort to bridge the digital divide.](#)

[View the Wisdom Collaborative's April 12 Lunch and Learn event.](#)

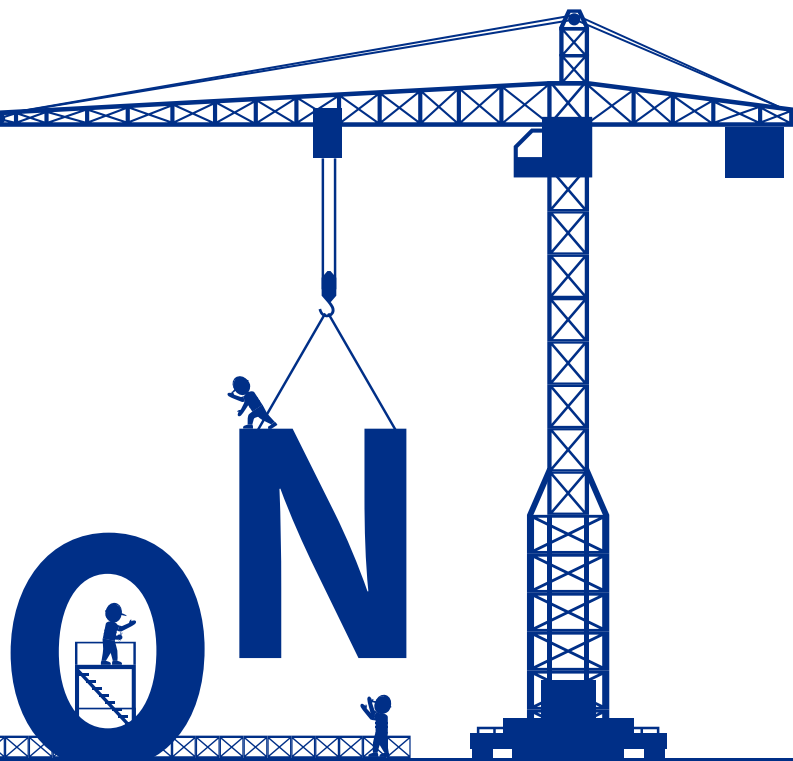
Partnerships prove key to Lakeland's E-Building



Thanks to a \$4.2 million grant award from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced by the U.S. Department of Commerce in October 2022, Lakeland Community College is expanding and renovating its Engineering Technologies building (E-Building) and Industrial Skills Training Center for Advanced Manufacturing to ensure job training meets employer needs. The EDA investment will be matched with \$3.1 million in local funds and is expected to create or retain over 900 jobs and contribute \$5.2 million in private matching investment. The total project cost is about \$20 million, for which funding will be provided by state capital appropriations, the U.S. EDA capital award and college debt financing.

The EDA's rigorous grant submission process spanned more than a year. The staff of The Lakeland Foundation, several college departments and area manufacturing partners worked together diligently to fulfill its requirements, and EDA officials praised the team's responsiveness to requests for additional information and revisions. With the announcement that funding for Lakeland's proposal would be granted in full, The Foundation's executive director Greg Sanders remarked, "I can't express how impactful this grant will be for our region, and how grateful I am to our Lakeland staff and workforce partners who helped make it happen."

Partnerships are key to every aspect of this project. Lakeland's engineering advisory committees,



faculty, lab instructors and student representatives were involved in the design process to expand labs, improve teaching adjacencies, resolve overcrowding and safety issues and provide student collaboration spaces.

As a required component of the EDA application, letters of support and impact statements were needed from external partners on the benefits of the proposed expansion to their businesses and to the region's industry. Rick Stark (class of '82; HOF class of '08), former president of South Shore Controls, Inc. and a member of the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame, proved integral to this process by facilitating support from numerous manufacturers and colleagues.

"This grant will have major impact for area residents,

employers and the community," Rick stated. "The rate of change in manufacturing continues to increase with the advent of Industry 4.0 and the Internet of Things. Lakeland students will become more valuable to employers, employers will be more competitive, and the community will benefit from increased wages that will support infrastructure and recreation. The value of skills training cannot be overstated, and Lakeland will be at the forefront of the charge to increase good manufacturing jobs."

Dave Enzerra, an executive-in-residence at Lakeland formerly with Lubrizol, was also part of the Lakeland team working to facilitate the proposal to the EDA. "Our responsibility at Lakeland is to provide all students with the right resources, learning

opportunities and support systems to positively impact their lives and to achieve their career aspirations,” Dave said. “The modernization of our Engineering Technology and Industrial Skills Training facilities is a direct result of many stakeholders working together for the benefit of students. We are fortunate in Lake County and Northeast Ohio to have wonderful businesses, schools, entrepreneurs, nonprofit organizations, community leaders, public service and governmental agencies as resources for addressing our workforce development needs.”

As a result of its synergy with the industrial sector, Lakeland’s project garnered local workforce support from the Lake Development Authority, Lake County Workforce Development Board, Geauga Growth Partnership, Alliance for Working Together (AWT) and many area manufacturing companies. Ohio’s new Intel plant and suppliers also represent an enormous opportunity for Lakeland graduates.

Terry Kilbourne is CEO of Tec Inc. Engineering & Design, a longtime supporter and engineering services provider to the college. “I think this is presenting a wonderful opportunity to improve

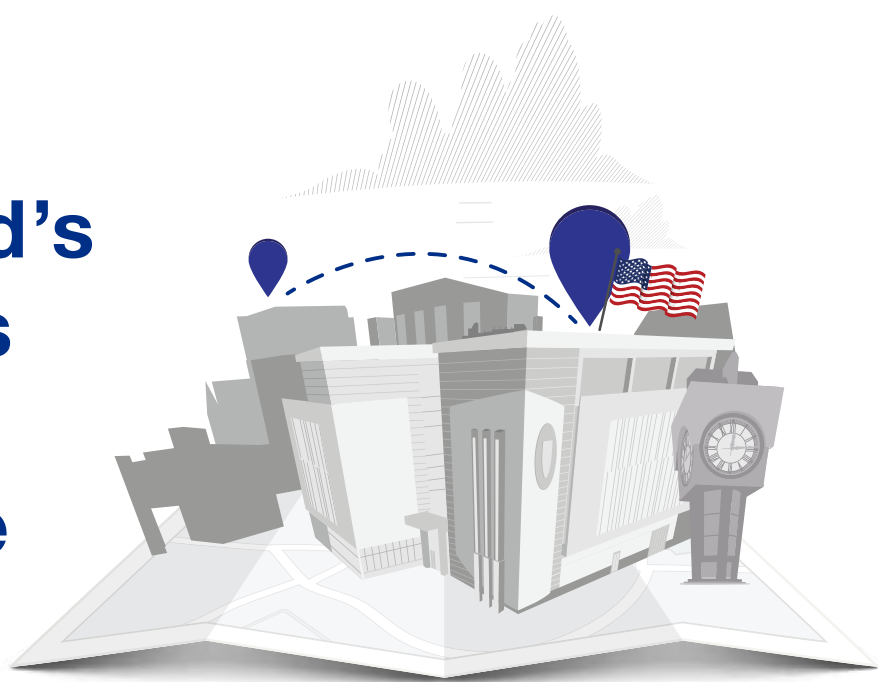
the qualifications workforce skills that will be required as the manufacturing and industrial process communities continue to add complexity to their processes and strive to become more efficient,” he said. “I believe the changes within the E-Building and the program will allow Lakeland students to rise to the forefront in this job market.”

The expansion also presents exciting opportunities for Ryan Hamilton as Lakeland’s new dean for ITCS & engineering. “The renovation is going to be awesome for our engineering programs. It will give our physical space a makeover to keep it as fresh as the technology in our classes. The additional square footage is going to give us room to continue to grow and provide quality learning opportunities to meet the social and economic needs of the community.”

The project will modernize most of the E-Building’s existing 38-year-old space and provide capacity for Lakeland to implement new programming and fulfill demand that is currently unmet in the region. Market factors indicate that demand is high for educated, entry-level manufacturing employees. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2023 and take 14 months.

“I think this is presenting a wonderful opportunity...”

Lakeland's Veterans Center is on the move



“We are having a moving party!” announced an email in March from Rhonda Osagie-Erese, manager of Lakeland’s Veterans Center. Staff, students, program supporters and the Lakeland community were invited to a lunchtime event April 18, to bid farewell to the veterans center’s current space and celebrate its impending move across campus in the fall of 2023.

Catered by Mission BBQ, the party included activities, games and military-style challenges and the unveiling of a nine by four-foot veterans center wall – the first of its kind on Lakeland’s campus, shaped with help from HIVE staff and built by Jim Capel’s high school construction class. The wall featured an amalgam of writing, photos and memories submitted by faculty, staff and students with military connections. The construction class also lined the area with Adirondack chairs built by hand in which guests could relax and enjoy the festivities.

Rhonda reported that the party, cohosted by Lakeland’s nationally-recognized [Student Veterans of America chapter \(SVA\)](#), was a great success. “I have never seen so many people in E-Building! Engaging, having a few challenge games, and sharing memories and messages with our military-connected community was great.”

Lakeland has served veterans since it opened its doors in 1967. In 2013, Wells Fargo Advisers provided a grant to The Lakeland Foundation to fund initiatives for Lakeland’s student veteran and military population. Those funds allowed for a dedicated space designed specifically for Lakeland’s student veterans to be created. The Wells Fargo Advisers, LLC Veterans Lounge, was opened that same year in an available suite of rooms on the east end of the E-Building. Through efforts led by the Foundation and former veterans program coordinator Barb Mancari, it was furnished, equipped and stocked



Photo caption: L to R - Lakeland SVA chapter president Tyrone Sanders, Lakeland Veterans Center manager Rhonda Osagie-Erese, Hannah Santiago, SVA treasurer Richard Santiago

with donations from community retailers, suppliers, veterans' groups, Lakeland employees and individuals. The lounge boasted a computer lab, study area, a coordinator's office, and a meeting space used by Lakeland's SVA chapter. It also provided a refuge on campus where student veterans and active military members, some of whom were recently returned from duty in the Persian Gulf and other regions of conflict, could gather privately for support from program staff and from each other.

With the fall 2022 announcement of the E-Building's manufacturing training center expansion funded by a \$4.2 million capital grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), a master plan was developed to include a relocation of the veterans center from the E-Building to a centralized space on the second floor of S-Building, adjacent to the Student Engagement Center and above Breakers. Willoughby architectural firm

ThenDesign Architecture was tapped to reimagine the new, much roomier space based on feedback from student veterans and from Rhonda as the program manager and a veteran herself. The design incorporates a lounge area, computer center, offices, a conference center and an expanded area for student activities. The new location also greatly improves access to resources in the college's student engagement center and offices of the Associate Provost for Student Affairs & Dean of Students.

In her thank you to the college community, Rhonda said, "The efforts to create a space for veterans on campus has been the culmination of over a decade of work by dedicated individuals. We look forward to the creation of our new centrally located space. This will allow us to better serve the military-connected community. That equates to an even better and more successful student body! We want to offer a special thank you to everyone who had a hand in making the current (former) space possible."

Are you interested in supporting Lakeland's new veterans center, our student veterans and their families? Contact Greg Sanders, executive director of The Lakeland Foundation, at gsanders3@lakelandcc.edu or 440.954.2394 about ways you can help.

The Eagle has (almost) landed

Greg Sanders, executive director of The Lakeland Foundation, received an unusual phone call in September 2022.

“I’d like to donate an eagle,” the gentleman said.

When Greg paused momentarily, the caller, Ed Figler of Willoughby, clarified that he had a replica of an American bald eagle that he wanted to gift to the Foundation for display on Lakeland’s campus. Greg and Foundation colleague Tracy Morris arranged to meet with Mr. Figler the following day to see the piece in person and discuss his preferences regarding a donation.

The piece owned by Mr. Figler was a near life sized-sized reproduction handmade by Majestic Eagle Creations, LLC in Denver, Colorado. Customers of the company have ranged from members of Congress to Fortune 500 companies, a Tony Award® winning producer and the rock group, The Eagles. One eagle is on permanent display at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C.. While the figure with its almost

four-foot wingspan appears strikingly real, it is completely fabricated by a wildlife artist using 90% recycled materials and feathers from 12 different varieties of domestic birds that are carefully dyed, restored, and attached by hand to the polyurethane figure.

It was agreed that the eagle, dubbed by staff as “Eddie the Eagle,” would most appropriately be displayed in Lakeland’s Veterans Center. To protect “Eddie” from potential dust and damage, a custom acrylic display case is being designed and crafted by students in Lakeland’s welding program under the guidance of program coordinator Ryan Eubank and welding lab technician Tom Roseum.

“Eddie” now waits patiently, wings spread, to take flight to its permanent home in the newly renovated veterans center when it reopens on the second floor of the S-Building in fall 2023.





Lakeland Cares Cupboard expands services to students in need with Laundry Loops®

The [Lakeland Cares Cupboard](#) announced in May 2023 that its services for Lakeland students in need is expanding to include Laundry Loops®, which will allow students to drop off clothing items at the Athletics & Fitness Center (AFC) to be washed and dried on campus, free of charge.

Melissa Amspaugh (LCC '89, HOF '18), Lakeland's senior director for enrollment operations, said, "Students have asked at the Cares Cupboard and Student Service Center (SSC) if we have funding available for them to go to the laundromat." She met with college administrators about how

to meet this need, but "due to the ventilation needed for a dryer, it wouldn't be anything that could happen quickly." To come up with a creative solution, Lakeland's director of athletics Scott Barlow shared with Melissa that the AFC uses Laundry Loops®.

Founded in Bozeman, Montana more than 15 years ago by Peggy and Mike Durney, [Laundry Loops®](#) is "the most widely used laundry management product in the United States," according to its website, and is used by collegiate and professional sports, health care institutions, fitness centers and local, state and federal facilities.

Melissa worked with Mike Burtscher, manager of the AFC, to extend the college's existing relationship with Laundry Loops® to include services for students through the Cares Cupboard. "We'll see how many students use this service and tweak the process as necessary," Melissa said.

"We have been using Laundry Loops® specifically to wash our student athletes' team and practice gear for about eight years now," says Mike. "I hope this service provides a helping hand to all those in need. We have had many of our student athletes use the Lakeland Cares Cupboard. Each of these students has always expressed their gratitude. I am happy to be a part of the goals the Lakeland Cares Cupboard has for our students."

"Having clean clothes is a basic need that most people take for granted. What we have witnessed is that our students don't always have those luxuries," added Melissa. "Our hope is that this laundry service, as part of our larger Lakeland Cares Cupboard food pantry, can help students feel better about themselves and give them a little confidence. Students are the only reason we are here, and we need to do whatever we can to assist them in their journey with us."

Melissa was inducted into the Lakeland Alumni Hall of Fame in 2018 not only in recognition of her years of distinguished service

to Lakeland's students in the college's financial aid office, but for her extensive volunteer work in the community. Both experiences attuned her to an increase in food insecurity and a decrease in access to daily necessities for many students on our campus. In response, Melissa worked with former college trustee Ken Quiggle and with The Lakeland Foundation to establish the Ken Quiggle "End Student Hunger Now" Fund, which provides operational support for the Cares Cupboard and its related initiatives on campus. Thanks to additional support from other funding organizations, individual donors and a partnership with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, the Cares Cupboard has assisted over 2,500 Lakeland students to date with food, personal hygiene items, and referrals to community resources, all free of charge and with no questions asked.

The Lakeland Cares Cupboard is located on the main campus in A-Building, Room A-1003, near the SSC. For more information about resources available to Lakeland students facing food insecurity and other essential needs, [click here](#) to visit the Cares Cupboard webpage. To support the Cares Cupboard, [click here](#) to make a secure online gift to The Lakeland Foundation's Ken Quiggle "End Student Hunger Now" Fund.

Lakeland awarded grant to improve equity in technology

The [U.S. Department of Labor \(USDOL\)](#) recently awarded Lakeland Community College a \$720,000 grant to increase educational and economic opportunities for individuals in underrepresented communities. The funds awarded to Lakeland are a portion of a larger \$5 million investment in the region by the USDOL.

The \$5 million grant was awarded to a consortium of four community colleges in Northeast Ohio including Lakeland, Lorain County Community College, Cuyahoga County Community College and Stark State College. The consortium will use the funds to improve equity of underrepresented groups, including women, in technology fields.

“We are grateful for the investment made in Northeast Ohio and in our institution. As we look at the labor market, we recognize that the region is changing. It is becoming more competitive, inclusive and technology based,” shared Dr. Laura Barnard, executive vice president and provost at Lakeland. “This grant

will allow us to implement programming specifically designed to meet the needs of Northeast Ohio employers, while also ensuring all individuals have access to the education and training needed to fill these good-paying, high demand jobs in our area.”

To reach targeted outcomes, Lakeland will implement plans to increase completion and placement rates of underrepresented and female students in [information technology and computer science programs](#). These plans include evidence-based strategies such as: student tracking, career coaching, wraparound services and work-based learning opportunities.

The consortium will also work to accelerate time to completion for high school and college students by expanding dual enrollment in information technology pathways at high schools and the four community colleges in the region.

For more information about academic programs offered at Lakeland, visit lakelandcc.edu.



2022-2023 Board of Directors

(Terms served between July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023)

Ka-Pi Hoh, Ph.D., Chair / Lubrizol Corp.

Jon J. Snyder, Vice-Chair / Ohio Life Sciences

Tina L. Barnauskas, Faculty Representative / Lakeland Community College

Thomas W. Benda

Morris W. Beverage Jr., E.D.M., College President / Lakeland Community College

William M. Bowers / Aqua Ohio

Brent M. Buckley / Buckley King

Stephen Campbell

Bruce J. Chantry / Lincoln Electric

Richard D. Cicero / University Hospitals

Peter B. Clausen

Donald J. Dailey

Dale H. Fellows / Morgan Litho

Deborah B. Friedman, M.D.

Joanne Fulton / ERIEBANK

Maha Gemayel / Lakeland Construction Group

Nancy L. Guthrie / Key Private Bank

Christopher D. Hess / Eaton Corp.

Valissa Turner Howard / Greater Cleveland Food Bank

Richard J. Iafelice / CT Consultants

Leslie S. Johns, Esq. / Ashley Jones Law

Ellen Foley Kessler, Trustee Representative

Joseph R. (Randy) Klammer / Klammer Law Office

Noreen Koppelman-Goldstein / MidWest Materials

Kathleen T. (Kay) Malec, D.A.E., Trustee Representative

Nicole McKinney-Johnson, M.B.A. / AKA Team Construction Mgmt & HARVEST of Ohio

Kip L. Molenaar

Rick Osborne Jr. / Osborne Real Estate Services

Howard S. Rabb / Dworken & Bernstein

Christine Sommer Riley / Lakeland Community College

Jerrie Lee Rispoli, Trustee Representative / Aexcel Corp.

Mark R. Ruth

Alyson Scott / Fredon Corp.

Richard J. Stark

Dede Storer

Janis Thiedemann / Parker Hannifin Corp.

Michael D. Thomas, Alumni Representative / Case Western Reserve University

Brendon J. Tripodo / Huntington National Bank

Steven Tsengas, Ph.D.

Gregory G. Young, D.P.M. / Medical Mutual of Ohio

Wendy F. Zele / FirstEnergy Corp.

EMERITUS DIRECTORS

Richard L. Urbanowski

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Greg Sanders, Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director, The Lakeland Foundation

Michael E. Mayher, Executive Vice President & Treasurer, Lakeland Community College

Dawn M. Plante, Chief Communications Officer and Vice President for Community & College Relations, Lakeland Community College

Lakeland business alumni represented on Learn from Leaders panel

Three accomplished alumni of Lakeland's business management programs were featured in an online panel discussion, titled "Leading After Lakeland," March 29, 2023, as part of the Dworken & Bernstein Learn from Leaders series. The panel was hosted by business management program director Connie Golden and professor Gretchen Skok-DiSanto.

Shelly Dalton, associate product manager at Sherwin-Williams, Haja Tunkara, owner of The Better Being Pod and Connor T. Wigren, owner and operator of Fitness Society Supplements, shared their thoughts on how Lakeland prepared them for success both in their academic and career pathways.

For Shelly, Lakeland was a "steppingstone" that propelled her into her career with Sherwin Williams. She praised the college's career services center as a critical resource, calling it "one of the best in all of the colleges in the area...I didn't know how to write a resume, and I didn't know how to answer interview questions. I didn't even know what to expect," she said.

Shelly credits the support she received from Lakeland's Career Services staff as ultimately leading to an internship with Sherwin Williams, which then led to a job offer from the company before she had even graduated from Hiram College through Lakeland's Holden University Center program.

Haja remarked on what she took from her Lakeland experience as she moved forward with her education and into her career. "I think the biggest thing for me is my horizons were opened....It opened me up to all that I didn't know, so that allowed me to have better conversations....to sit in rooms with many different people across many different cultural and career backgrounds and be able to have those intelligent discussions. As you grow and develop, your education is not just textbooks, it's also the experiences."

When asked for a word that describes what Lakeland means to him, Connor replied, "No pun intended, but 'community.' I never experienced that in education before until Lakeland, where everyone was like, 'We're going to teach you, but we're going to

help you learn as well.’ I always struggled in school, so it meant a lot to me.”

For all their diverse experiences and backgrounds, the three alums emphasized the role of Lakeland’s faculty in preparing them for their careers and life, post-Lakeland. The importance of their instructors teaching from real-world experience, availability through office hours for personalized support and an emphasis on teamwork, collaboration, and networking were cited as key factors in their development as business professionals. As Haja put it, Lakeland taught them as students to “use your community” – a lesson these three alumni have taken from the classroom into the world beyond.

[Click here](#) to view the entire Learn from Leaders online panel presentation.



Join us
for a night at the ballpark!
Friday, Aug. 18 • 7 p.m.

Scan the QR code to get your discounted tickets!



Lakeland
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ALUMNI & FRIENDS NETWORK



**Would you like to receive
The Lakeland Foundation’s
Friday Update email in
your inbox each week?**

[Send Nancy an email](#) and she’ll add you to the Friday Update email list.

**We want to hear
from you!**

What have you been doing since you attended Lakeland?
Share your story [here](#).