

WIRED

Edison Foundation Raises over \$40K for Student Scholarships with Annual Holiday Evening at Edison State

The Edison Foundation at Edison State Community College held the 19th annual Holiday Evening at Edison State on Wednesday, December 7, to help raise money for student scholarships.



The evening featured The Texas Tenors as the headlining entertainment for the night's festi-

ties. Nearly 350 guests, including many alumni, attended the annual gala, where they enjoyed hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and the company of others. While a majority of the guests in attendance were local, several out-of-state guests attended to see the evening's entertainment as they performed their special holiday show, "Deep in the Heart of Christmas."

Proceeds from the evening benefit the Edison Foundation's General Scholarship Fund, which directly assists recent high school graduates and those returning to the classroom to start, change or advance their careers. "Each ticket that was sold helps support students through scholarship opportunities," said Rick Hanes, Vice President of Business and Community Partnerships. "I have each guest to thank, as well as, the evening's presenting sponsors, Emerson and Premier Health—Upper Valley Medical Center, for making this event a success. Every dollar counts when it comes to helping students achieve their dreams."

This year's event raised over \$40,000, which will assist countless students in the upcoming academic year, including the Thomas Alva Edison recipients, who are in the top 15% of their high school class. "It's great to see so many people willing to help support a

worthy cause, especially around the holidays," said Dr. Larson, President of Edison State. "The students that receive these scholarships often find themselves with one less stress while pursuing their education, and that says a lot. We want to see students have a positive college experience and succeed, which is the whole reason behind this event."

Young Women Explore STEM Careers at Edison State's We Are IT! Event

More than 200 students ranging from sixth to eleventh grade engaged in a day of learning and fun at Edison State Community College on Friday, December 2nd, for the eleventh annual "We Are IT!" event. The daylong program is designed to help boost interest of young women in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The event began with a keynote address from Edison State alumna Shelley Thiebeau, a registered nurse at Grandview Hospital. Thiebeau, spoke to the young ladies about how the principles of STEM fields impact her career as a nurse. "It's really important that we get the next generation excited about nursing because we are going to need a lot of nurses to replace current nurses as they retire," Thiebeau explained. "And the healthcare community is growing due to an aging population." Thiebeau went on to explain the various types of career paths and areas of healthcare students could pursue after receiving a college education. "So no matter what career path you choose, you are the future of America," added Thiebeau. "It's important for you to get an education because an education will stay with you your entire life. Once you get a degree, nobody can take that away from you and it is not something you can lose."



Alumni Keynotes Annual Scholarship Banquet

Edison State Community College in partnership with the **Edison Foundation** held the annual fall scholarship banquet recognizing over 95 students and providing them the opportunity to meet the patrons who sponsored their scholarships. **Edison State** alumni Jordan Knepper, Executive Director of the Piqua Arts Council spoke encouraging words to the scholarship recipients about achieving success. Knepper recited words from poet Robert Frost to begin his remarks, "Two roads diverged into the woods and I... I took the one less traveled."

"Most of the time when you hear this, the speaker is telling you to blaze your own path," added Knepper.

"But I'm not going to say that. Some of you know exactly what path you need to take in life to get where you want to go. What I want to tell you is that no matter what path you take, you'll have decisions to make."

The road to life is paved with many indecisive squirrels...

"The road to life is paved with many indecisive squirrels; so when you come to a decision, make a choice, be a decisive squirrel. Learn from your choice and apply that knowledge the next time you come to a fork in the road and if you keep doing this, I promise you, you'll end up where you're supposed to be."

Made possible by the **Edison Foundation**, **Edison State** and local organization sponsorships, recipients honored were awarded over \$100,000 in academic scholarships and need-based scholarships. Scholarships awarded will aid in students' pursuit of higher education at **Edison State**.

Founded in 1993, the **Edison Foundation** has raised more than a million dollars, giving scholarships to **Edison State** students through the generous giving of our community and alumni. "I think the Edison Foundation provides a valuable opportunity to students by helping them start their journey through higher education," added Knepper. "It also helps build a connection with the community and for those students that continue on for a 4-year degree, it helps bring them back to the community."

Jordan Knepper graduated from high school in Jackson Center and then proceeded to **Edison State**. While there, Jordan found one of the passions in his life to be mathematics. After graduating from **Edison State**, he continued his education at Muskingum University in New Concord where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics.

Edison State Student Named Young Woman of Tomorrow

Nurturing, courageous, and dignified are all words used to describe **Edison State Community College** student, **Mindy Bach**. Recently named the 2016 Young Woman of Tomorrow by the Piqua YWCA, Bach's enduring spirit has captured the attention of her nominator and **Edison State** Professor of Communications and Literature, Dr. Vivian Blevins. Dr. Blevins saw much more than an outstanding, hardworking student in Mindy; she saw her most significant achievement in life—surviving with dignity, honor, and courage. Each year the English Department at **Edison State** holds an essay competition as part of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize Competition. Bach submitted an essay in which she detailed the challenges of living in her home where her mother dealt with Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and has since before she was born.

In her essay, Bach wrote about coming to peace with what would be incredibly difficult for anyone, the sure knowledge that her mother would soon pass. Mindy's mother lost her battle to MS in December of 2015 at the age of 51.

"Mindy never threw up her hands as some teens would do,"

said Dr. Vivian Blevins. "She never used this as an excuse to engage in inappropriate activities but instead used this as an opportunity to nurture her three siblings, love and support her mother, and continue to be an exemplary student and human being." Blevins went on to add, "I look forward to her arriving at my classes each week, knowing that she will bring who and what she is to all our discussions of literature. I am so proud of her, and I am so grateful that she has been a part of my life this past year. She is one of those persons that a professor never, ever forgets."

Bach took College Credit Plus courses at **Edison State** and graduated with honors from Troy High School in 2016. She will return to **Edison State** in the spring to pursue a degree in engineering.



Mindy Bach with Dr. Doreen Larson



Edison Alumni Jean Heath Speaks at Nursing Pinning.



Edison Alumna Jean Heath, Director of Nursing, Cancer Care Center, Education CardioPulmonary Rehab, Community Health/Wellness at Premier Upper Valley Medical Center, was the guest speaker for the Nursing Program Pinning Ceremony held at **Edison State's** main

campus on December 15, 2016. Jean

shared with the nursing graduates how **Edison State** provided a solid foundation and a good start to begin her extensive career in the health care profession. She recognized the nursing program and faculty at **Edison State** who provided her with a quality education that was pivotal in fostering her inner strength, self-confidence and nursing skills. Jean encouraged graduates to *"always ask questions and never think that you can't"*. She stressed the importance of professional in the nursing field with building *"trust and honesty to foster relationships with patients"*. Her last words of wisdom were to *"never stop learning"*.

Edison State Launches Agribusiness Program at Darke County Campus

To meet the growing demand of the local agricultural industry in Darke County, **Edison State Community College** launched a new agribusiness program in the fall of 2016. Students enrolled in the program interact in courses including agribusiness, agricultural finance, international business, animal science, and agronomy, alongside participating in internship and industry observations.

The program has come to fruition after initial inception and rigorous planning over the past two years. *"We conducted a feasibility study, analyzed the data, developed program outlines, and started individual course development,"* said Chad Beanblossom, Dean of the Darke County campus of **Edison State**.

The program resides at the college's Darke County campus while also serving residents of Miami, Shelby, and surrounding counties. *"All residents of this region are connected to agriculture in some way, and the overall goal of this program is to provide students with an option to gain knowledge in a field of study they have been so deeply connected to their entire lives,"* added Beanblossom.

Edison State Alumni Donate Forensic Equipment



The Science and Information Technology Departments at **Edison State** are extremely excited about an equipment donation from former students and alumni Susan Benkert and her husband John. **The Benkerts** are owners of CPR Tools, Inc. in Fort Myers, Florida with John serving as CEO and Sue in the role as CFO. The in-kind contribution of twenty PSIClone handheld forensic units were donated by the Benkerts through The **Edison Foundation** for usage in the Science and Information Technology Departments. A huge thank you to our successful alumni for giving back!





Charger Volleyball Players Earn All-OCCAC Honors

Two **Edison State Community College** volleyball players were named recipients of post-season awards from the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) for the 2016 season.

Erin Metz (*Jackson Center*) earned First Team All-OCCAC honors. Metz, a freshman MB/OH, earned more than 200 kills and over 350 digs in her first season as a Charger.



Earning Honorable Mention for the second consecutive year is **Brianna Wells** (*Sidney*). Wells, a sophomore MB/RS, played solid in the front row earning over 200 kills and 85 blocks for the season. The women's volleyball team finished 12-16 overall and 5-9 in their conference. The Lady Chargers finished third in the Region XII District F tournament!

Happy holidays from the Edison Foundation!

As the end of year quickly approaches, time is running short to make a 2016 tax-deductible gift to **The Edison Foundation**, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed to support the educational and community service goals of **Edison State Community College**. All gifts are appreciated and provide scholarships and academic program support.

DONATION YEAR-END DEADLINES:

By check – must be postmarked (U.S. Mail) by Dec. 31, 2016, or hand-delivered to our office on campus by 4:00 p.m. on December 29, 2016. Please mail gifts to:

The Edison Foundation
1973 Edison Drive
Piqua, OH 45356

Gifts by credit card – if sent by mail, must be postmarked (U.S. mail) by December 31, 2016; if made online, **The Edison Foundation** must receive transaction details by 4:00 p.m. EST on Dec. 29, 2016. **The Edison Foundation** accepts donations via PayPal on Visa, MasterCard, Discover and American Express. The secure url is: www.edisonohio.edu/donate

Gifts of stock – to receive tax credit in 2016, must be received and handled by our broker (Fifth Third Bank). Please contact Megan Dauber at 513-534-3557 or megan.dauber@53.com For a year-end gift or to ask further questions, please contact **The Edison Foundation** at foundation@edisonohio.edu or 937-778-7805.

Thanks for your support of **Edison State Community College** through **The Edison Foundation!**

Edison State Charger Country Alumni Night

Our Edison State Charger basketball team is off to a great start with a 5-2 record and averaging 78 points per game! As the excitement increases we want to extend a special invitation to all of our alumni. The **Edison State Alumni Association** along with **Edison State President Doreen Larson** are excited to invite all **Edison State Alumni** to our first "Charger Country Alumni Night" on January 20, 2017, with the men's basketball team competing against Wright State Lake Campus.



All **Edison State Alumni** who pre-register for Charger Country Alumni Night receive **FREE** admittance into the game, **FREE** pre-game food and drink, along with a **FREE** Edison State Alumni gift. The Charger Country pre-game runs from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. Reserve your ticket(s) for this great event by contacting the **Edison State Alumni Office** at 937-778-7806 or alumni@edisonohio.edu.

DID YOU KNOW...

WIRED is an alumni newsletter published by the Edison State Alumni Association.

It contains alumni highlights, information and events which Edison State Community College supports and hosts on an ongoing basis. For more information or how you can become part of The Alumni Association, contact the Edison State Alumni Office at 937-778-7806 or

alumni@edisonohio.edu.

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