

THE HOCKING COLLEGE PRESS

NELSONVILLE, OH

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SPECIAL EDITION HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY

To celebrate the New Year, we would like to take a look back at some of the exciting accomplishments we made in 2021.

January

- Hocking College launches new Driver's Education initiative, offering driving courses to the campus and the local community.

February

- Hocking College Equine Programs break ground on the planned Equine Arena, which began construction in Spring 2021 and is expected to be completed in Spring 2022.

March

President Dr. Betty Young signs the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship's Presidents For Entrepreneurship Pledge (PFEP), and advances plans to increase entrepreneurship opportunities and ventures at Hocking College.

April

- Hocking College unveils a newly renovated Nature Center, and celebrates the launch of a brand new food truck, which operates as a live learning lab for Culinary Arts students.

May

- Hocking College Athletics announces new Women's Softball team to begin playing in Spring 2022.

June

- The Ohio Aspire program is brought to Hocking College, offering additional funding and educational opportunities to current and future students.

July

- Hocking College announces new Cabinetmaking and Architectural Millwork degree, and began enrolling students in the Autumn 2021 semester.

- Outdoor exercise equipment was installed along the bike path, and Nature Center began offering bike rentals to students and the local community.

- Women's Flag Football comes to Hocking College, thanks to a grant provided by the NFL. The sport is scheduled to begin playing in the 2022-2023 school year.

August

- Fashion Design & Retail Merchandising students piloted HC Alterations, a clothing mending and alterations service available to Hocking College students and the community.

- The Lodge at Hocking College hosts its Grand Re-Opening Event after completing extensive renovations.

September

- Three new programs were added to Hocking College's offerings for Associate Degrees: Social Work, Sports Management and Theatre.

- The Hocking College Press launches its first print newspaper, and begins distribution to the Hocking College campuses and local libraries and grocers.

- Hocking College opens in the the Lancaster Workforce Center, and celebrated the grand opening of a new building for workforce education in the region.

- The Nelsonville Black Diamond Music & Arts Festival, a new country and bluegrass festival hosted by Hocking College, is announced to the public, with spaces and vendors booked. [READ MORE](#) on PG. 4

October

- Hocking College hosts its Homecoming event after taking a break from in-person events in 2020 due to COVID-19. Alongside Homecoming weekend, the college hosted a Halloween Haunt event at Robbins Crossing for the local community.

November

- Classes begin using the new High-Fidelity Medical Simulation Lab simulating medical scenarios and labor & birthing procedures. [READ MORE](#) on PG. 3

December

- Hocking College announces the performance line-up for the 2022 Nelsonville Black Diamond Music & Arts Festival. [READ MORE](#) on PG. 4

CAMPUS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

JAN. 15

Hocking Hills Winter Hike
[56th Annual Winter Hike in the Hocking Hills State Park](#)

[Read More PG. 4](#)

JAN. 16

Murals of Nelsonville
Walking Tour

[Meet at the Nelsonville Library for this unique historic tour](#)

[Read More PG. 4](#)

JAN. 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day
[Hocking College Closed](#)

JAN 22 & 29

Home Basketball Games
[Hocking College W's and M's Basketball Games Scheduled](#)

[Read More PG. 6](#)

FEB. 4

Spring Graduation
Application Due
[For students expecting to graduate at the end of Spring 2022 semester](#)

See our full events calendar for even more upcoming events. Visit [PAGE 8](#) or look online at hocking.edu/events

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HOCKING COLLEGE CAMPUS NEWS

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COLLEGE & COMMUNITY SPORTS

*LOCAL STORIES:
HOCKING COLLEGE FIRE
FACULTY INSTRUCT AND
INSPIRE*

CAMPUS NEWS

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING STUDENTS!

STUDENTS RETURN TO CAMPUS JANUARY 5TH - 9TH

International Students from Jamaica Join HC Spring Semester

Hocking College welcomed several international students from Jamaica this semester, who will be joining programs in Hospitality and Events Management and Culinary Arts, among others. Historically, Hocking College has offered a variety of opportunities for international students to attend Hocking College, and has partnered with the Joint Committee for Tertiary Education to offer in-state tuition and scholarships for Jamaican students. In 2016, Hocking College and Excelsior Community College (ECC) in Jamaica signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which allows Jamaican students from ECC to study abroad at Hocking College. Due to travel restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer international students were able to participate in this partnership program. This semester's addition of Jamaican students will see the largest increase of international students joining a new semester since pre-COVID.

Students who attend Hocking College through a partnership program with a participating Jamaican college can earn dual certifications from each of those colleges. International students can also opt to attend Hocking College on a semester-by-semester basis, sometimes earning Certificates from Hocking College or simply continuing their education abroad.

Along with domestic new students, the new Spring Semester international students from Jamaica began moving in to the residence halls on Hocking College campus on Wednesday, January 5th. Shortly after arriving, many of the students from Jamaica experienced their first snowfall. All Spring Semester students will begin classes on January 10th, and the international students will also have the opportunity to join the International Student Club meetings, along with any other students at the college who are interested in joining the International Student Club, on Wednesdays from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.



SPRING 2022 INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION WELCOMES
NEW EXCHANGE STUDENTS FROM JAMAICA

TOWER TECHNICIAN I PROGRAM COMES TO HOCKING COLLEGE, THANKS TO GRANT PROVIDED FROM THE OHIO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF WORKFORCE INNOVATION

Do you want to work in the growing 5G job market? In November 2021, Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted, who serves as Director of the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation (OWT), announced the launch of Telecommunications Tower Technician Programs at three Ohio institutions: Hocking College, North Central State College and Vanguard-Sentinel Career & Technology Center.

According to the Governor's Office of Workforce Transformation, "The 'Strengthening Ohio's Broadband & 5G Workforce' Strategy, released in September, identifies the need for a skilled and prepared workforce to fill broadband and 5G jobs. The strategy outlines a plan for increasing broadband industry career awareness and creating more training and education programs in the state."

The Telecommunications Tower Technician Program at Hocking College will provide students with the necessary knowledge, skills and hands-on experience to start their professional careers in the telecommunications industry as a Telecommunications Tower Technician I.

The program will launch in the Spring Semester of 2022. It consists of 240 hours of coursework, which cover: tower safety, basic rigging and fall protection, principles of electricity, fiber optics, wireless technology, cell components, antenna basics, spectrum management and more.

Todd Schlekeway, President & CEO of NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association, said: "The TTTI program curriculum that is being implemented in these designated Ohio schools will move the needle on the industry's workforce needs by providing training courses that prepare students for rewarding careers in a rapidly growing industry without taking on college debt. NATE commends the State of Ohio for its leadership, and we thank Lt. Governor Husted for his continued support for our industry and for leading the nation with these important investments in critical workforce development programs."

Dr. Betty Young, Hocking College President said: "Hocking College is proud to be a site for the Tower Technician I program in Southeast Ohio, partnering with the state to expand telecommunication training in Ohio and preparing Ohioans for good jobs in Appalachian Ohio."

If you or anyone you know is interested in the Telecommunications Tower Technician I program at Hocking College, please contact Sean Terrell, Dean of Workforce Development at terrells@hocking.edu or by phone at 740-753-7149.



CHANNEL 91 ON NELSONVILLE CABLE: YOUR HOCKING- AT-HOME TV STATION

Melinda Casilli

Hocking College broadcasts a public cable TV channel through Nelsonville TV in Nelsonville, Ohio. There is always something going on at Hocking College: with over 50 programs and multiple businesses run by students, each week is an opportunity to learn more about the updates and news at the College.

Whether you want information on one of their unique programs, the next semester start date, or what might be brewing at Starbrick Brewery, Channel 91 has you covered. The channel has been part of Hocking College for over 45 years, and was initially operated by the Broadcasting Program in the 1970s. Today it is run by Yaphet Jackman, the Visual Content Manager - TV Station in the Marketing Department at Hocking College.

Channel 91 is part of Nelsonville TV, a local cable provider offering cable and internet packages. To find out if Nelsonville TV serves your area, the current packages they offer, and how you can begin watching Channel 91, visit their website at www.nelsonvilletv.com or call 740-753-2686.

Do you have an idea for new videos that you would like to see on Channel 91? Please reach out to the Visual Content Manager by emailing Yaphet Jackman at:

jackmany@hocking.edu

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT

NEW SIMULATION LAB AT HOCKING COLLEGE BENEFITS ALLIED HEALTH, NURSING, AND PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES PROGRAMS

In September of 2021, Hocking College unveiled its new high-fidelity medical simulation lab in Davidson Hall, which serves a variety of college programs. In the Autumn semester of 2021, students in Allied Health, Nursing and Public Safety Services programs began utilizing the new lab to facilitate learning of medical emergencies and situations that arise in hospital and medical environments. The simulation lab currently comprises two lab areas: the first holds rooms for simulating labor and delivery, pediatrics and nursing care; the second is a fully simulated four-bed hospital unit, which includes electronic medication dispensing stations.

The simulation lab has been designed with Allied Health, Nursing and pre-hospital Emergency Medical Service programs in mind. According to Michael Francis, the Nursing Program Simulation Manager at Hocking College, "The simulation lab will greatly benefit our students by placing them in real-life high-fidelity scenarios and situations. This will result in introducing the students to high-risk and emergency situations that they might not experience during regular clinicals." This tool is designed to better prepare Hocking College graduates in the medical industry for real-world scenarios, and allows for them to learn from potential mistakes on artificial patients.

Since the simulation lab was completed midway through the Autumn Semester, some classes were able to begin using the lab last term, and the majority of the lab's use will begin in the Spring Semester

of 2022. Some of the experiences that students have already learned in the lab include patient assessment, child delivery, cardiac arrest, and difficult airway intubation. Of the early use of the new simulation lab, Francis says "so far the students have been very engaged while participating in the sim lab. Some students were able to spend several hours in the lab simulating a regular nursing shift, and they all said what an invaluable experience it was."

As technology continues to develop and as Hocking College grows its programs, the college plans to improve, update and advance its simulation lab over time. "As the college adds additional health science programs for students, we plan to expand the simulation lab to better include those programs", Francis said. "Eventually, as more programs are included, we would also like to have simultaneous disciplinary programs working together all within the same simulated scenarios. This will help prepare students to work with those other departments as they normally would within their care settings." Both Michael Francis and Dr. Tamara Moyer, Dean of Allied Health and Nursing are enthusiastic about the future of the Simulation Lab and the medical programs at Hocking College. Dr. Moyer sees the new lab as one of the most valuable ways for students to gain real-world experiences in human medical emergencies before entering the field as medical professionals. She notes that several research studies, conducted by universities and hospitals, indicate that classroom experience in

these simulation facilities directly relates to on-the-job preparedness and improved response time in life-saving situations.

In the Nursing program at Hocking College, students will use the simulation lab as well as continue clinical work at local hospitals and care facilities, in addition to their regular coursework. According to Moyer, the benefit of adding simulation scenarios on top of clinical work is that "we can guarantee a certain incident or experience, such as a labor scenario. In clinical rotations, you can't guarantee that you will be on a shift where someone is giving birth, or that there is a complication with the birth that has to be handled - but with the simulation, I can guarantee that every student who comes out of our program will experience certain scenarios in this lab before they graduate, which will make them better prepared in the field."

The simulation lab received funding from state initiatives to improve and advance healthcare education, and the School of Allied Health and Nursing hopes to continue its development and expansion with additional support from grants and donors. While the groundwork had been laid to fund and develop a new simulation lab when Michael Francis was brought on board, Dr. Moyer marks Francis as the key driver in helping to plan, develop, design and promote the High-Fidelity Simulation Lab at Hocking College.



SIMULATED HOSPITAL BED AND MEDICATION CABINET IN THE NEW HOCKING COLLEGE HIGH-FIDELITY SIMULATION LAB, WITH MANNEQUINS WHO "REACT" TO MEDICATIONS, TREATMENT, MEDICAL EQUIPMENT AND MORE.

DEAN OF ALLIED HEALTH AND NURSING, DR. TAMARA MOYER

Hocking College's new dean of the School of Allied Health and Nursing, Tamara Moyer, brings practical and educational nursing experience to her new role.

Originally from Bremen, OH, Moyer graduated from Fairfield Union High School and went to a community college where she completed general education courses while trying to identify her ideal career path. Initially, Moyer had planned to become a medical doctor, an ophthalmologist or massage therapist; however, her plans at that time ultimately led her to Kentucky Christian University where she pursued a business degree.

While studying in Kentucky, Moyer had her first child and committed to becoming a full-time mother for the next 10 years. In 2003, Moyer returned to college and chose to pursue her initial career goals in the healthcare industry. She earned her Associate Degree in Nursing in 2006, then went on to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2009, and Master of Science in Nursing Education in 2013. In May of 2021, Moyer obtained her Doctorate

of Nursing Practice from Liberty University.

While completing her education, Moyer worked as a Registered Nurse at Nationwide Children's Hospital for 13 years and taught as an Assistant Professor at Ohio University.

Moyer was drawn to Hocking College because she feels she can "help make a difference in a rural community, changing lives and offering the opportunity to alter the future of students who have experienced similar stories as [she] had".

Moyer elaborates that: "Hocking College gives you that rural feeling, surrounded by nature, bringing a peaceful vibe with it. It is small, yet has the dorm life along with sports. Quite the package if you ask me."

As both a first-generation college student herself and someone who came from a difficult background and graduated at the bottom of her high school class, Moyer hopes to inspire students to believe that they can achieve anything they

want through determination and hard work.

As the Dean of the School of Allied Health and Nursing, Moyer oversees all of the school's programs, making sure the day-to-day operations run smoothly and producing quality education that best serves the area's rural healthcare system.



LOCAL EVENTS

MURALS OF NELSONVILLE WALKING TOUR

JAN 16 11AM - 1PM

Join the local Rural Action and Appalachian Understories for the “Murals of Nelsonville” walking tour, which is scheduled to meet at the Nelsonville Public Library on January 16th at 11:00 a.m.

Registration is required for this event, and interested participants can register online by visiting:

www.appalachianunderstories.com

The event is \$20 to attend, and participants will be led through Nelsonville to view and learn about the iconic murals of Nelsonville, Ohio. The discussion will lead to Rocky Boots and the event includes an art discussion and interpretation in the cafe at Rocky.

Appalachian Understories offers a variety of regional, seasonal tours in the Southeast Ohio region, and also offers custom private tours, camping trips, and other outings for groups. They also offer community classes, such as an upcoming class on basic bike maintenance.



HOCKING COLLEGE DRIVES INAUGURAL NELSONVILLE BLACK DIAMOND MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

On June 10-11, 2022, Hocking College will host the Nelsonville Black Diamond Music and Arts Festival, a celebration of country and bluegrass music in Southeast Ohio, located on the Hocking College campus. This new endeavor by Hocking College was first announced in September 2021, and the official lineup announcement was made in December 2021.

The festival is named after the Little Cities of Black Diamond, a collection of historic coal mining communities in Southeast Ohio to which Nelsonville belongs. The Nelsonville Black Diamond Music and Arts Festival (commonly referred to as the Black Diamond Music Festival or BDMF) will celebrate an eclectic variety of artists and musicians including headliner, multi-platinum award winning Elle King, as well as renowned artists Elvie Shane, the Kentucky Headhunters and McGuffey Lane.

The two-day music and arts festival will feature three stages, a variety of food and beverage vendors, arts and crafts vendors and demonstrations, and camping and lodging accommodations for guests. “Hocking College is the perfect venue for this type of musical celebration,” said Dr. Betty Young, Hocking College President. “The pristine 2300-acre campus provides an incredible backdrop for this exciting event, promoting the region’s amazing natural resources and rich cultural heritage.”

In addition to showcasing the campus, the Nelsonville Black Diamond Music and Arts Festival will highlight the College’s academic programs, including Culinary Arts, Fermentation Sciences, and the Music and Recording program. “Hocking College is committed to providing students real-world experience that further cultivates our future workforce,” said Sean Terrell, Dean of Workforce Development and Community Engagement at Hocking College. “The Black Diamond Music and Arts Festival will provide our students the opportunity to not just work a large festival, but help organize, operationalize, and execute an event that will showcase all of the assets Southeast Ohio has to offer.”

For information about the Nelsonville Black Diamond Music and Arts Festival and to order tickets, visit www.blackdiamondmusicfestival.com and follow on Social Media @BlackDiamondMusicFest on Facebook and Instagram, and @BDMusicFest on Twitter.

music & dining

rhapsody.hocking.edu
740-753-5740

JAZZ NIGHT EVERY WED.

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HOCKING COLLEGE STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN 56TH ANNUAL HOCKING HILLS WINTER HIKE

January 15, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

The Hocking Hills will host its annual Winter Hike, traversing a six mile trail from Old Man’s Cave to Ash Cave in the Hocking Hills State Park. The group hike begins at the Visitor Center Parking Lot at Old Man’s Cave on SR 664. The hike is free to attend, and participants are encouraged to dress appropriately for the weather and length of the hike, including appropriate footwear for a potentially icy or snowy trail. Cash donations are encouraged for refreshments along the trail, to support the park.

Two Hocking College programs will be assisting in this year’s Winter Hike: The Natural Resources Law Enforcement students, led by program manager Tim Kucerovy, will work alongside the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) staff to assist with traffic control, maintenance and crowd control. In addition, the Parks and Museum Education students, led by program manager Pat Quackenbush, will assist in leading natural interpretation and educational lessons at various stops along the trail. This valuable field experience will provide both a networking opportunity for students to meet ODNR staff from around the state, as well as a hands-on learning experience working with park visitors, preparing them for future careers.

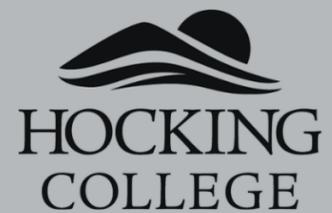
The Hocking Hills Winter Hike has been held since 1965, and has been a popular activity for visitors from across the state and region. In its largest turnout year in 2010, the park hosted over 5,400 people for the Winter Hike event at Hocking Hills. Visitors on this day can expect a busy trail, and an excellent opportunity to meet fellow hikers and nature lovers in the southeast Ohio region. The hike will be held rain or shine, and would only be cancelled under the most extreme circumstances.

More information on the group Hocking Hills Winter Hike, or other events at Hocking Hills State Park can be found online at thehockinghills.org and navigating to “Programs/Events”.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

HOCKING COLLEGE

In-Demand Careers 2022



- Early Childhood Education
- Fire & Emergency Medical Services
- Social Work
- Nursing
- Medical Assisting
- Healthcare Informatics
- Natural Resources Law Enforcement

ENTER ONE OF THESE IN-DEMAND CAREER PATHS IN AS LITTLE AS TWO YEARS BY JOINING A HOCKING COLLEGE ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAM

APPLY TODAY

WWW.HOCKING.EDU/APPLY

In 2021, 97%* of graduates of Hocking College received between 1-3 job offers before graduating from their program!

* Data received from Hocking College 2021 Spring and Summer graduate self-reporting surveys

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&

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SPORTS

HAWKS MEN'S BASKETBALL BOUNCES BACK INTO NJCAA TOP 20 RANKINGS AFTER 13TH STRAIGHT WIN

The Hocking College Men's Basketball Team has played 7 home games and 6 away games since the season started in November of 2021, and has scored 1241 total points across all 13 games. They are currently ranked #19 in the NJCAA in Division II Men's Basketball.

On December 20th, Hocking College athlete James Moore was named OCCAC Player of the Week after the game against Potomac State. At that game, Moore converted on 15-of-19 shots, including 1-of-2 from beyond the arc, for a total of 31 points.

The Hocking College Hawks will play another game on January 15th, 2022 at Bryant and Stratton College in Solon, Ohio and will play its next home game against Lorain County Community College on January 22, 2022.



MEN'S BASKETBALL HOME GAME 11/21 VS. MIAMI UNIVERSITY MIDDLETOWN

HOCKING COLLEGE MEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

January 15 @ 3:00 p.m. VS Bryant and Stratton College
 January 19 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Edison State Community College
January 22 @ 3:00 p.m. VS Lorain County Community College

January 26 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Lorain County Community College
January 29 @ 3:00 p.m. VS Owens Community College
 February 2 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Terra State Community College

HOCKING COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SCHEDULE

January 15 @ 1:00 p.m. VS Bryant and Stratton College
 January 19 @ 5:30 p.m. VS Edison State Community College
January 22 @ 1:00 p.m. VS Lorain County Community College

January 26 @ 5:30 p.m. VS Lorain County Community College
January 29 @ 1:00 p.m. VS Owens Community College
 February 2 @ 5:30 p.m. VS Terra State Community College

Home games are in **BOLD** text above. Game schedules are subject to change.

LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

NELSONVILLE - YORK	ATHENS	LOGAN	NEW LEXINGTON
Boy's Varsity	Boy's Varsity	Boy's Varsity	Boy's Varsity
January 14 @ 7:30 p.m. VS River Valley High School	January 14 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Alexander High School	January 15 @ 7:00 p.m. VS Parkersburg South HS	January 21 @ 7:15 p.m. VS John Glenn High School
January 17 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Amanda-Clearcreek HS	January 18 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Logan Elm High School	January 21 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Athens High School	January 22 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Coschocton High School
January 18 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Belpre High School	January 28 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Vinton County HS	February 5 @ 2:30 p.m. VS Parkersburg High School	January 25 @ 7:15 p.m. VS Crooksville High School
January 21 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Vinton County HS	February 1 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Meigs High School	February 8 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Warren High School	February 4 @ 7:15 p.m. VS Meadowbrook HS
January 25 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Alexander High School	Girl's Varsity	Girl's Varsity	February 11 @ 7:15 p.m. VS West Muskingum HS
Girl's Varsity	January 15 @ 1:30 p.m. VS South Gallia High School	January 15 @ 1:30 p.m. VS Pickerington HS North	Girl's Varsity
January 20 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Vinton County HS	January 20 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Alexander High School	January 24 @ 7:00 p.m. VS Chillicothe High School	January 12 @ 7:15 p.m. VS Philo High School
January 22 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Logan Sr/Jr High School	January 27 @ 7:30 p.m. VS River Valley High School	January 26 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Fairfield Union Schools	January 19 @ 7:15 p.m. VS Morgan High School
January 31 @ 7:30 p.m. VS River Valley High School	February 3 @ 7:30 p.m. VS Wellston High School	January 29 @ 1:30 p.m. VS Bexley High School	

High School Athletics Schedules have been collected from each school's website. Please check with your local school district for changes and updates.

HOCKING COLLEGE ARCHERY TO COMPETE IN FOUR SPRING 2022 COMPETITIONS

The Hocking College Archery team, which began its 2021-2022 season in September 2021, is currently competing in the indoor competitive archery circuit.

The team traveled to Louisville, KY on January 7-8, 2022 for a USA Archery 25 Meter Shootout competition, and is expected to travel to Manheim, PA over the weekend of January 27-30 for the Lancaster Classic competition.

According to Hawks Archery Coach Erick Smith, competitive indoor archery is a very different activity from outdoor competitions, and the competitors are often challenged to make the transition throughout the season.

In February of 2022, the Indoor Collegiate Nationals will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio with a date yet to be announced. Then, the Collegiate Target Nationals, also known as the National Outdoor Collegiate Championships are held, with both a date and a location to be announced.

CAMPUS STORIES

HOCKING COLLEGE FIRE ACADEMY INSTRUCTORS SPARK INSPIRATION FOR GENERATIONS

Stephanie DiFrancesco

Joseph and Alexander Daniels are both adjunct faculty members in the Hocking College Fire Academy, local firefighters, and stewards of best practices within the fire service. Alex was a student at Hocking College; he started in 2010 to get his Firefighter Certificate (known in Ohio as a 240 Card, in reference to the two-hundred-forty coursework hours required to earn the certificate), and later returned to earn his Associate Degree in Fire & Emergency Medical Services. Joe, his father, joined the Hocking College staff as an instructor after his son graduated. Last year, Alex also became an instructor at Hocking College, in an effort to give back to the institution that taught him, and to lead the next generation of firefighters entering the workforce.

Joe Daniels entered the fire service in 1990, with two young boys at home. He started as a part-time firefighter at the City of Westerville until 1999, and also became a full-time member of the City of Marysville Fire Department in 1993. In 1995, Joe received his Paramedic Certificate; in 1998 he received his Instructor Certification; and in 1999 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant at the City of Marysville Fire Department. Joe found his passion as a fire instructor, and has served as an instructor at the Ohio Fire Academy from 1998-2017, Bowling Green State Fire School from 2006-2019, and he is currently an instructor at both Columbus State Community College and Hocking College. At the City of Marysville, in addition to his normal duties as Fire Officer and Paramedic, Joe is also the department's Fire Training Coordinator.

Alex Daniels grew up watching his father as a firefighter. He says that even though his brother never showed much interest in the fire service, Alex rarely considered any other career path: he knew he would be a firefighter. When Alex was a student at Hocking College, he learned the valuable skill of being, as he calls it, a "sponge". He says that his willingness to learn new things and openness to trying things in more ways than one taught him problem solving and critical thinking skills that are needed for the fire service. Alex has worked as a firefighter in the City of Gahanna for about 10 years, and started as a fire instructor at Hocking College in 2020.

After returning from six years of military service, Joe originally planned to become a history teacher. With a passion for teaching, he found his niche years later as a fire instructor, where he can educate and help prepare students for the challenging career path as a firefighter. Joe says: "early in my career, one of my mentors (who is still a peer and close friend) told me it was my responsibility to be very good at my job, and to ensure that the generations of firefighters who followed would be the same. That motivation has never wavered in 32 years."

Being a fire instructor, however, is not an easy responsibility. Joe and Alex spoke about the challenges of instructing classes of students during the COVID-19 pandemic with online instruction and distance learning, and the flexibility needed to continue teaching new generations of students as learning styles change and their formative education moves to less hands-on techniques. Joe says that when he first learned as a firefighter, everything was hands-on and experience based: the best way for him and the majority of his class to learn was to do. However, students now come out of high school with a more digital-based education, and a hands-on learning environment like the Hocking College Fire Academy does not come naturally to all students.

Joe and Alex both note that successful fire students (and thus, successful fire fighters) need to be self-reliant hard workers. Joe says that "the student needs to understand that the standards are very high, and will never waver. Striving to be their best every day, every class, every moment will be evident to the fire community." Alex's advice to new and incoming fire students is to "take the information that's given to you and process it, then perform". He says: "we never expect any one student to be the best at everything and often tell them, we'd rather have someone who works their butt off and tries hard at every task they're given than someone who thinks they know it all. You can never learn enough about a job that can kill you and by being a hard worker and being a teachable student you are much better prepared."

Some of their students may not go into the fire service full-time, but the instructors intend for the Firefighter training program to help students be prepared regardless of the route they take. Joe and Alex noted that at least one of their current students was currently a volunteer firefighter at their local fire department, and after completing this program, that individual would most likely become the most senior volunteer firefighter on the force. In several small towns in Southeastern Ohio, the fire department is made up primarily of volunteer firefighters. This means that after just a 240-hour program, this individual might be called upon to be the top decision maker on the team, and the instructors understand how critical it is to prepare these students for that responsibility. Unlike other fields where new incoming employees have time to train and shadow under more seasoned professionals, the field of fire fighting moves quickly and those who complete the program need to be prepared to handle disasters from day one.

Joe and Alex Daniels are all-too familiar with the hardships that face firefighters on a daily basis. They have lost friends and colleagues in the service, and they have seen and experienced countless amounts of loss. Alex says that when he was first training to be a firefighter, and certainly while his father was in the academy, the topic of mental health was not discussed. It did not come up in the courses, nor was the subject broached in the fire house; in fact, it wasn't until recently that fire services offered regular counseling sessions with a licensed therapist, to support the mental health of their firefighters. Now, entire lessons are devoted to discussing mental health, trauma, PTSD and therapy, and the fire academy instructors encourage and welcome open communication on the subject of mental health. Joe says that during his years as a firefighter, he has seen a dramatic shift in the way that the fire service responds to topics of stress, trauma and depression; and in turn, he has seen the way that new firefighters are better equipped to handle the mental and emotional hardships that they will face in the service, thanks to these important discussions happening early on in the classroom. "Nothing can prepare these students for the things they're going to see and experience out there," Joe says, "but if we show them that it's okay to talk about it, and we make sure they know where to go and who to ask for help, then that's a big step we can take as instructors and as mentors."

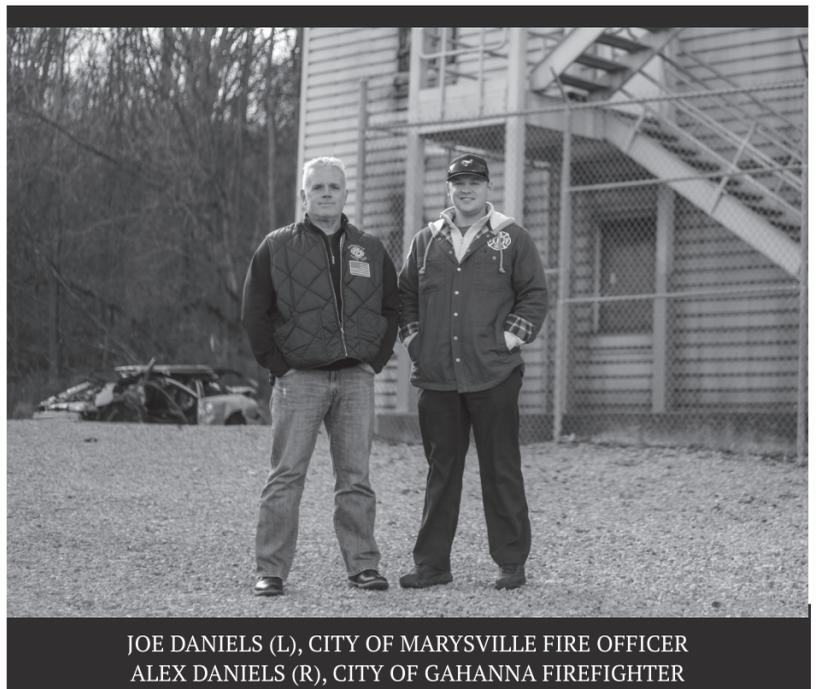
Although the fire service is incredibly challenging, it can also be very rewarding. Furthermore, the job is in very high demand right now. Alex says "Competition is low and departments across not only Ohio but across the nation are in such high need for firemen it's staggering." He continues, "When students come out of Hocking's Academy, the ability to find a relatively high paying job they can eventually retire from at a young age is unbelievable." Alex specifically promotes the Fire & Emergency Medical Services Associate Degree program at Hocking College, stating: "Having a degree in the fire service is becoming more popular, and especially if you have aspirations of being promoted, having a degree is a must. At Hocking, you can get a degree in Fire & Emergency Medical Services and already have a leg up on someone who only went to a 240 Academy. Speaking as someone who has done this route through Hocking College, I encourage all who go through fire classes to follow through on their degree to be the most prepared they can be when entering the job market."

Hocking College offers an Associate Degree in Fire & Emergency Medical Services as well as a Firefighter I & II Certificate program. These programs prepare graduates to meet community needs for fire and emergency medical protection. The Fire and Emergency Medical Services program offers Firefighter I and II, EMT and Paramedic certification courses over five semesters. Fire classes meet the educational standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, NFPA 1001 Firefighter Professional Qualification. In the Firefighter Certificate program, students can be prepared to earn both their Firefighter I and Firefighter II certifications in just one semester.

For more information on any Fire Science program at Hocking College,
please contact **Richard Best, Program Manager of Fire Sciences**

bestr35625@hocking.edu

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JOE DANIELS (L), CITY OF MARYSVILLE FIRE OFFICER
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JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Athens Farmers Market
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Athens Farmers Market
			Start Week: New and Returning Student Welcome Activities			
9	10 First day of Spring Semester Classes	11	12 Jazz Night at Rhapsody	13	14	15 Athens Farmers Market Hocking Hills Winter Hike
16 Murals of Nelsonville Walking Tour	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day College Closed	18	19 Jazz Night at Rhapsody	20	21	22 Athens Farmers Market Home Women's and Men's Basketball Games
23	24	25 Jazz Night at Rhapsody	26	27	28	29 Athens Farmers Market Home Women's and Men's Basketball Games

LEGEND

- Campus & College Events (Registration Required)
- Community & Local Events
- Holidays & National Events

We would love to see you at our Campus Events! To learn more and to register, scroll to the bottom of the Hocking College homepage to find the full events calendar with links and more information.

www.hocking.edu

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Email: HCPress@hocking.edu

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and
Casanova Green
Journalism Program Manager

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Hocking College Ombudsman
ombudsman@hocking.edu
740-753-7050

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