

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-24

Mission in Motion



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WE *Move*

Dear Friends,

At Rhodes State College, our mission is to change lives, build futures, and improve communities through life-long learning.

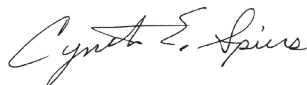
This mission is always in motion. Each year, we push boundaries, explore new possibilities, and create pathways that lead to brighter futures for our students, our workforce, and our community. As you turn the pages of this year's Annual Report, I encourage you to reflect not only on the visible milestones we have achieved, but also on the collective efforts that fuel our progress.

This year's theme, *Mission in Motion*, captures the essence of our work. Throughout these pages, you will see images that focus on singular faces or facets of our College — symbols of our commitment to education, innovation, and transformation. Yet, surrounding those focal points is the blur of motion, a visual representation of the many dynamic and collaborative forces that propel us forward. Every breakthrough in advanced manufacturing and AI skills, every advancement in healthcare education, every upskilling opportunity provided through our Workforce Development department, and every investment in collaborative learning spaces is the result of countless dedicated actions and unwavering support.

Walt Disney once said, **"Around here, however, we don't look backwards for very long. We keep moving forward, opening up new doors and doing new things, because we're curious... and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths."** At Rhodes State, curiosity fuels our innovation. It drives us to expand academic programs that meet the needs of a changing workforce, to champion student success stories like our 2024 New Century Pathway Scholar, and to uphold excellence through our faculty and staff. It is this relentless pursuit of progress that allows us to change lives, build futures, and improve the communities we serve.

As you read this report, know that your support — whether through partnerships, philanthropy, or advocacy — plays a crucial role in our mission. Together, we are not just witnessing change; we are making it happen. Thank you for being a part of this journey as we continue to move forward, always seeking new doors to open and new opportunities to embrace.

Kindest Regards,



Cynthia E. Spiers, PhD

WE Trailblaze

BRIDGING THE CLASSROOM AND INDUSTRY

Rhodes State College has unveiled its state-of-the-art Connected Smart Manufacturing classroom and laboratory, designed to prepare students for careers in Advanced Manufacturing and Industry 4.0. Located in the James J. Countryman building, this cutting-edge facility emerged from repurposed campus space following the development of the Borra Center for Health Sciences.

Spanning 3,200 square feet, the facility integrates advanced technology, including semiconductor manufacturing equipment, Intellitek Smart Sensor Lab Stations, Cognex Machine Vision Station, and FANUC robots. These tools provide students with hands-on experience, bridging the gap between classroom learning and industry demands.

The space is strategically located near the Nutrien Agronomy suite, fostering collaboration between Advanced Manufacturing and Agriculture Technology programs.

Faculty members, including experts in Mechanical, Electrical, and Engineering Technology, play a crucial role in equipping students with industry-relevant skills. Jesse Wallace, Chair of AI and Machine Learning, emphasized the College's "forward-thinking approach," ensuring students remain at the forefront of technological advancements. This initiative reinforces Rhodes State's commitment to innovation, workforce development, and interdisciplinary education.



EXPLORING HEALTHCARE CAREERS

Lima Memorial Health System and Rhodes State College hold a nursing-focused session of Lima Memorial's *Exploring™ Program* at the Rhodes State College Borra Center for Health Sciences. The event offers high school seniors hands-on experiences in nursing, networking with professionals, and exposure to cutting-edge

medical technology. Students cycle through six interactive stations featuring simulators, a vein finder, and ER/trauma training. The program aims to inspire future nurses by providing real-world healthcare insights and leadership development opportunities in collaboration with Lima Memorial staff and Rhodes State faculty.

CREATING EMPOWERING ENVIRONMENTS

Rhodes State College has been awarded the **Ohio Reach Postsecondary designation by the Ohio Department of Higher Education**, recognizing its commitment to supporting students with foster care or kinship experience. This designation highlights the College's efforts to provide essential resources, mentorship, and community-building opportunities to foster youth. Chancellor Randy

Gardner and Governor Mike DeWine praised Rhodes State for its dedication to student success. The designation includes criteria such as a campus liaison, resource connections, and staff training. Rhodes State remains committed to creating an inclusive environment that empowers students from foster backgrounds to achieve their academic and career goals.

ADVANCING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION

Rhodes State College championed two agriculture-focused events in 2024. "**Lead the Change in Agriculture**" offered students and community members insights into agriculture technology programs, hands-on activities, and networking with industry leaders. Attendees explored career opportunities, scholarships, and had access to on-site registration for fall classes.

The **Grow with Rhodes Summer Teaching Institute** equipped agriculture educators with practical skills and knowledge in agriculture. The week included farm visits, hands-on lab experiences, data analysis sessions, and collaborative problem-solving activities. These initiatives highlight Rhodes State's commitment to advancing agriculture education and workforce development.

WE Upskill

LEADERSHIP & TECHNICAL TRAINING IMPACT

Workforce Development and Continuing Programming (WDCP) at Rhodes State College had an impactful 2023-2024 fiscal year, providing valuable leadership and technical training to local businesses.

Its Leadership Training Series, co-sponsored by Cenovus Energy, offered monthly workshops from September 2023 to May 2024. Open to all area employers, these sessions attracted over 250 attendees. Popular topics included “Supervising in the Five-Generation Workplace” and “Managing Competing Perspectives and Expectations,” equipping leaders with tools for success.

Rhodes State also continued its role as an authorized Mitsubishi Training Center, offering monthly courses in Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC). More than

80 professionals from companies like Crown Equipment, Konica Minolta, and AGC Automotive Americas attended, reinforcing Rhodes State’s reputation as a leader in workforce training.

Additionally, the Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) expanded its reach, serving over 300 apprentices. Through its Department of Labor-approved sponsorship, Rhodes State provided related instruction to 80 active students, ensuring they gained the skills necessary for career advancement.

With these initiatives, Rhodes State College remains a cornerstone of workforce development, helping professionals and businesses thrive in an evolving job market.



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION WITH STEM OUTREACH

Rhodes State College's 2023-2024 fiscal year saw remarkable success in its STEM outreach programs, engaging students from grades 2 through 10 in hands-on learning.

The Rhodesology Summer Camp, held June 10-14, provided over 180 campers with interactive STEM experiences. Activities ranged from LEGO engineering and BattleBots competitions to esports and medieval architecture. Campers also toured local industries, gaining insight into real-world applications of STEM fields.

The Pre-College Summer Programs introduced over 70 students in grades 8-10 to advanced technology through courses like "Artificial

Intelligence (AI) Breakthrough" and "Surgical Tech." These programs offered early exposure to high-demand careers.

Throughout the school year, STEM Mini Camps provided Saturday morning classes covering topics such as Computer-Aided Design (CAD), Electrical Wiring, and Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC). Over 135 young learners participated, sparking early interest in technical careers.

Through these initiatives, Rhodes State continues to foster a passion for STEM education, preparing the next generation for future success in technology-driven fields.

RHODES STATE COLLEGE
Statement of Financial Position

2023-2024 Expenses

Instruction.....	\$8,732,722
Institutional Support	\$5,349,151
Depreciation.....	\$2,818,334
Operation and Maintenance	\$1,913,815
Student Services	\$1,919,868
Public Service.....	\$1,836,165
Student Aid.....	\$1,305,632
Academic Support	\$1,224,845

Total Expenses **\$25,100,532**

2023-2024 Revenues

State Appropriations	\$10,531,192
Tuition & Fees.....	\$7,577,584
Federal Pell Revenue	\$3,052,126
Federal Grants and Contracts	\$1,299,120
Gifts	\$685,000
State Grants and Contracts	\$622,929
Sales and Services	\$402,999
Investment Income.....	\$259,196
Other Operating Revenues.....	\$212,451

Total Revenues **\$24,642,597**

92% of Rhodes State alumni remain in the region upon graduation, impacting our communities for many generations.



FISCAL YEAR 2024 GRANTS

7.1.2023 to 6.30.2024

Total Grant Awards Managed in FY 2024

Annual Renewal Grants	\$531,571
Continuing Grant Awards	\$5,282,001
New Grants	\$3,317,260

Total Grants **\$9,130,832**

Continuing Grants Awarded

Ag Reach -USDA	\$600,000
Agriculture Workforce Training - USDA	\$500,000
Choose Ohio First 2019	\$64,000
Choose Ohio First 2021	\$364,812
Choose Ohio First 2022.....	\$378,000
Choose Ohio First 2023.....	\$188,100
Early Learning Center Stabilization III	\$144,600
Gene Haas Foundation.....	\$20,000
Inter-Faith America 2023	\$4,000
IREPO	\$1,701,757
NSF - Grow with Rhodes	\$526,765
Ohio Wellness Awareness	\$25,000
Safety Grant 2022.....	\$87,500
Scaling Apprenticeship Through Sector-Based Strategies	\$571,467
Short Term Certificate 23	\$106,000

Continuing Grants **\$5,282,001**

Annual Renewal Grants Awarded

APEX	\$87,255
Perkins 2024	\$164,571
RAPIDS 6	\$93,215
SBDC	\$186,530

Total Annual Renewal Grants **\$531,571**

New Grants Awarded

Behavioral Health Workforce	\$126,479
Choose Ohio First 2024.....	\$144,000
Early Learning Center Stabilization IV	\$43,380
HB33 Mental Health Services	\$55,595
OACC SemiConductor Scholarship.....	\$2,000
OhioREACH Post Secondary Foster Care.....	\$5,500
Overcoming Crop Adoption Barriers.....	\$44,073
SuperRAPIDS.....	\$303,426
SuperRAPIDS Vacuum and Gas.....	\$113,500
Talent Ready	\$132,189
Title III	\$2,161,241
Work Ready	\$185,877

Total New Grants **\$3,317,260**

WE *Imagine*

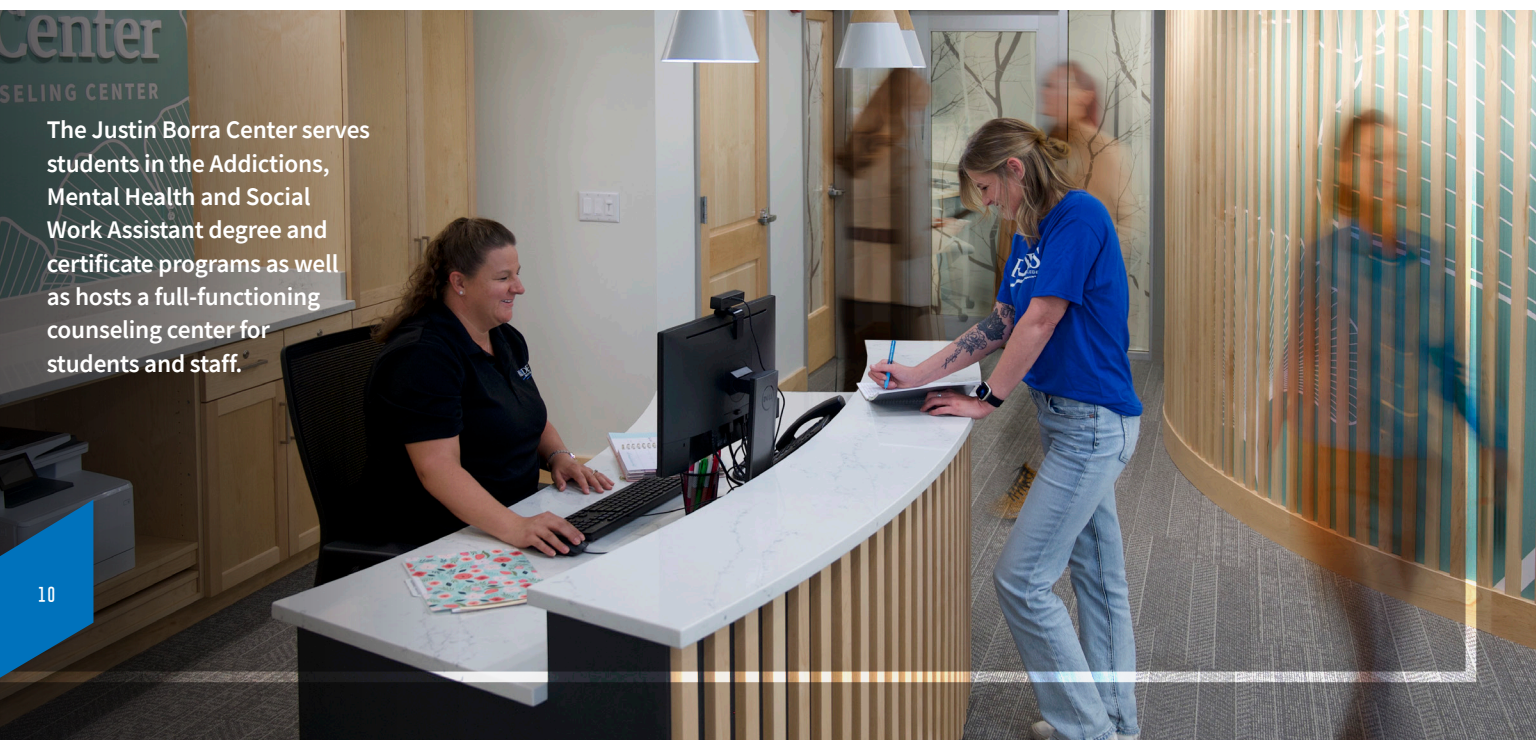
DEDICATION FOR THE JUSTIN BORRA CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL SERVICES

Rhodes State College celebrated the opening of the Justin Borra Center for Behavioral Services on October 3 with a dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting. Attendees, including College leaders, donors, and students, toured the state-of-the-art facility, which supports the Mental Health, Addictions, and Social Work Assistant associate degree and Addiction Services certificate programs.

Speakers included Rhodes State President Dr. Cynthia E. Spiers, Board of Trustees Chair Everett “Butch” Kirk, III, and Pier C. Borra, representing the **Borra Family Foundation**, whose transformative gift helped establish the Center. Additional remarks highlighted the Center’s impact on mental health and addiction services in the region.

The facility features a fully functioning counseling center, a group therapy room with nature views, collaboration spaces with hyflex technology, and a 24-person hyflex classroom. It was funded through the Educate Collaborate Innovate capital campaign, with major contributions from the Borra Family Foundation, Brad and Judi Roush, the Dennis and Susan Smith Family Foundation, and others.

This dedication coincided with the two-year anniversary of the Borra Center for Health Sciences. Rhodes State remains committed to advancing education and workforce development, and the Justin Borra Center exemplifies its mission to create innovative learning environments that serve students and the community.



The Justin Borra Center serves students in the Addictions, Mental Health and Social Work Assistant degree and certificate programs as well as hosts a full-functioning counseling center for students and staff.

AR-HALE FAMILY FOUNDATION JOINS RHODES STATE COMMUNITY TO DEDICATE **ADVANCED MANUFACTURING LEARNING CENTER**

Rhodes State College officially dedicated the **Ar-Hale Family Foundation Advanced Manufacturing Learning Center**, in the James J. Countryman Engineering and Industrial Technology Building. The Center provides hands-on training with FANUC, ABB, and Mitsubishi robots, as well as hy-flex technology for remote and in-person learning.

The facility enhances all engineering technology programs, featuring mobile labs and collaborative classroom spaces.

The Center is part of the *Educate Collaborate Innovate* campaign, with the **Ar-Hale Family Foundation** contributing significantly to Rhodes State's \$8 million goal.

The Ar-Hale Family Foundation Advanced Manufacturing Learning Center exemplifies the College's dedication to creating innovative learning environments that prepare students for in-demand careers.

RHODES STATE COLLEGE **CELEBRATES GIVING DAY 2024 SUCCESS**

Rhodes State College is proud of the success of Giving Day 2024, raising \$6,196.56 to fund six new scholarship awards. This achievement embodies our Mission in Motion, as generosity fuels student success.

With matching gift donors amplifying contributions, the Alumni Legacy and Faculty & Staff Student Scholarships will empower students to pursue their dreams. Everyone who donated, volunteered, and supported this initiative moved us forward in transforming lives.

RHODES STATE COLLEGE **FOUNDATION** *Statement of Net Position*

2023- 2024 Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$637,832
Investments	\$5,592,207
Accounts, Pledges and Notes	
Receivable - Net	\$690,160

Total Assets \$6,920,199

2023- 2024 Liabilities & Net Assets

Total Liabilities	\$220,722
Donor Restricted Assets	\$6,482,835
Unrestricted Assets	\$216,642

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$6,920,199

Statement of Activities Year Ending June 30, 2024

Total Revenues, Gains, and Other Support	\$1,423,515
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Net Assets End of Year \$6,699,477



RHODES STATE'S SAMANTHA KNEPPER NAMED NEW CENTURY WORKFORCE PATHWAY SCHOLAR

Rhodes State College student Samantha Knepper was named the New Century Workforce Pathway Scholar, recognizing her as the top scholar in the State. A Radiographic Imaging student and All-Ohio Academic Team member, Knepper graduated in May 2024.

Knepper has excelled academically and remained committed to community service. Her own medical experiences have shaped her passion for healthcare, inspiring her to pursue Radiographic Imaging. "It has taught me to be more observant, charitable, and appreciative of a healthy life," she shared.

In recognition of her achievements, Knepper received a \$1,500 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Foundation and Phi Theta Kappa. She was honored at the Association of Community College Trustees' Leadership Congress in Seattle in October 2024.

2023-2024 OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

Dental Hygiene – Jill Greve

Nursing – Mackayla Ann Wilson

Occupational Therapy Assistant – Paige Madison Bellman

Physical Therapist Assistant – Joanna Catherine Schlatter

Radiographic Imaging – Samantha Marie Knepper

Respiratory Care – Emma Irene DiYanni

Surgical Technology – Justin Daniel Burden

Surgical Technology – Summer Wilson

Associate of Science – Sarah Fatima

Associate of Science – Kaitlynn McIntyre

Accounting – Michael James Horning

Addictions, Mental Health and Social Work Asst. – Deziree Ayers

Addictions, Mental Health and Social Work Asst. – Shelly D Bendele

Business Administration – Zoey Mckynlee Font

Human Resource – Holly Nichol Brinkman

Human Resource – Megan Kay Chiles

Electro-Mechanical Engineering Tech. – Kaitlynn Marie Grant

Digital Marketing & Media – Bethany Lynn Wallace

Network Security – Adam Eugene Leatherman

Web/Computer Programming – Kyle Steven Wall

Mechanical Engineering Tech. – Jacob Henry Diller

Assoc. of Technical Studies – Tyler Lee Stewart

CHESTER BURNS AWARD

Engineering Technology – Alena Grace Davis

Engineering Technology – Geran Jayson Wagle

Enrollment

16% | **84%**
Full-time | Part-time

Average Student Age

19.9

Degrees/Certificates Awarded

721

Top 5 Associate Degrees Awarded

Nursing21%
Electro-Mechanical Eng. Tech.....12%
Business Administration20%
Occupational Therapy Assistant6%
Human Resource.....5%

Top 5 Certificates Awarded

Advanced Nurse Assistant.....15%
Personal Care Aide.....15%
Electronic System Tech.....9%
Electro/Mech System Tech.....7%
Medical Coding & Billing.....7%

County of Residence

Allen29%
Hancock.....17%
Putnam16%
Hardin.....7%
Mercer.....6%
Auglaize6%
Shelby.....5%
Van Wert3%

FREE VIRTUAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

Rhodes State College has partnered with TimelyCare to offer students free, 24/7 access to mental health support, medical care, and basic needs assistance. This partnership extends campus health resources, aiming to improve student well-being, engagement, and retention.

Students can access virtual care from licensed physicians and counselors nationwide through their phone or device, including on-demand medical care, mental health counseling, peer support, and self-care content.

TimelyCare provides fast, convenient, and culturally responsive care, reducing wait times and eliminating insurance barriers.

“There is no greater priority than the health and safety of our students,” said Dr. Jeannette Passmore, Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs. “TimelyCare makes on-demand support easier than ever.”



2024 OUTSTANDING ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENT

Since 1988, Rhodes State College has honored outstanding graduates with the **Outstanding Alumni Award** for excellence in career, community service, and education.

The 2024 recipient is **Dr. Nicholas J. Pratt, MD, RN**, a 2014 Nursing graduate now serving as a resident physician at Yale University. Pratt, one of the few professionals to earn both nursing and medical degrees, has published research on AI and social media's impact on healthcare and showcased his artwork in multiple exhibitions.

Pratt credits Rhodes State for shaping his career: *"It provided real-world experience, ignited my passion for healing, and enriched me with invaluable mentorship."*

2024 ALUMNI CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE

These alumni were recognized at the **Outstanding Alumni Dinner** on May 3, 2024 and at the 2024 Rhodes State Commencement Ceremony on May 4, 2024 where Dr. Pratt delivered remarks.



Richard Kortokrax
'82, Business Management
Banking Community President
Huntington National Bank



Melissa States
'92, Early Childhood Development
Preschool Intervention Specialist
Allen County ESC



E. Warren Pughsley
'03, Business Management
Fire Inspector, Lima Fire Department
U.S. Army Veteran



Ezekial Wiechart
'16, Respiratory Care
Program Director
Edison State Community College

ALUMNI BY THE NUMBERS

20,368

Total Alumni

13,603

Health Sciences and
Public Service

6,765

Technology and
Liberal Studies

55

Alumni Donors

85

Alumni Advisory
Committee Members

73

Alumni Business Owners
and Chief Executives

92%

Alumni in
Northwest Ohio

NOT JUST A SKILL

Bringing Hope and Help to a World in Need

At Rhodes State College, students don't just learn skills—they develop a purpose. Two such graduates, Alora Stacey (NSG '20) and Amy McKamey (NSG '08), came to Rhodes a decade apart but found themselves on the same mission: to heal and help.

In February 2023, Alora and Amy traveled with One Plus God to Whitbank, South Africa, providing medical care, distributing supplies, and bringing encouragement. This was one of many missions for Alora, who has also served in Haiti, Thailand, and Jamaica. She currently works at Mercy Health – St. Rita's Hospital in Lima in medical oncology, hospice care, and telemetry. Amy, a nurse specializing in cardiac care, interrogates and programs pacemakers in Cincinnati. She has traveled to Haiti, Israel, and South Africa to serve.

In Whitbank, they cared for preschool children, took vitals, provided deworming treatments, and trained parents in first aid and CPR. But what impacted them most was the resilience of the people they met.

"We're not going to change the world. But we can help," Amy said. They witnessed extreme poverty, where homes were built from landfill trash or sat atop unstable coal mines. Yet, the joy and love of the community inspired them.

For both, Rhodes State was the foundation that gave them the confidence to serve. *"You can use your skills and compassion anywhere,"* Alora shared.

At Rhodes State, education is more than job preparation—it's a challenge accepted to change lives, build futures, and improve communities. We are grateful for Alora, Amy, and all our graduates who bring hope and help to a world in need.

RHODES STATE COLLEGE LEADERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONFERENCES

Rhodes State College proudly participated in the Community College Baccalaureate Association Conference 2024, themed “*Growing Talent for Local and Global Impact.*” Board of Trustees Vice Chair, Dr. Ann Pohl, joined an industry panel discussing the value of community college baccalaureates and industry partnerships. The panel, moderated by Dr. David Harrison, included leaders from Amazon Web Services, Wharton-Smith Construction, and

law enforcement. Additionally, Angela Heaton, Dean, Health Sciences and Public Service and Dr. Melissa Harvey, Assistant Dean, Nursing Services presented “*Foundations in Patient Care,*” providing essential training for entry-level patient care technicians. Rhodes State remains committed to shaping the future workforce through education and collaboration.



RHODES STATE COLLEGE PROFESSOR JACQUELINE MARTZ AWARDED OHIOLINK GRANT TO PROMOTE AFFORDABLE LEARNING



OhioLINK awarded Open Educational Resources (OER) Course Redesign Grants to 30 Ohio faculty, including Rhodes State College's Professor Jacqueline Martz. Since 2022, 146 grants have helped instructors transition to OER, potentially saving students over \$1 million annually.

OhioLINK Executive Director, Amy Pawlowski, emphasized the program's impact, estimating \$1.5 million in savings if courses convert to OER. The grant includes a four-week training and OER librarian consultation to replace costly textbooks with free resources.

DEAF TOWN EVENT IMPACTS MORE IN OUR COMMUNITY

Rhodes State hosted Deaf Town on November 16, 2023 in the James J. Countryman atrium. This free, immersive event offered hearing individuals a unique opportunity to experience the challenges deaf individuals face in daily interactions.

Through interactive booths simulating real-world settings—such as grocery stores and doctor's offices—participants navigated communication barriers and explored strategies used by the deaf community. The event aimed to foster understanding, empathy, and awareness by

providing a firsthand look at the obstacles deaf individuals overcome in a predominantly hearing world.

Adjunct Professor Jodi Pierstorff described Deaf Town as an invaluable experience for gaining insight into deaf culture and communication. Open to students, faculty, and the public, attendees were encouraged to actively engage in this eye-opening experience. Rhodes State College invites the community to join in learning and supporting inclusivity for deaf individuals.

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The Ar-Hale Family Foundation
The Lima Community Foundation
The State Bank and Trust Co.
The Union Bank Company
Tuttle Services, Inc.
Unverferth Manufacturing Company, Inc.
Von's Diamonds & Jewelry
WIWA LLC
Zion Lutheran Church

GIFTS-IN-KIND

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Armstrong Air & Space Museum
Art Space Lima
Kylee Ball
BG Bath Witch
Biggby Coffee
Blanchard Valley Health System
Melissa M. Britt
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Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken - Wapakoneta/Delphos
Lima Symphony Orchestra
Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce
Keersten Lindeman
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Marigold Bakery
Mary Rutan Health
Old Barn Restaurant and Grill
Our Town Roast Coffee Shop
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Kathi R. Stephens
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The Ayers, Inc.
The Cheap Sign Company
The Hero Day
The Meeting Place on Market
The Met
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Vibe Coffeehouse & Cafe
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2023 - 2024

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