

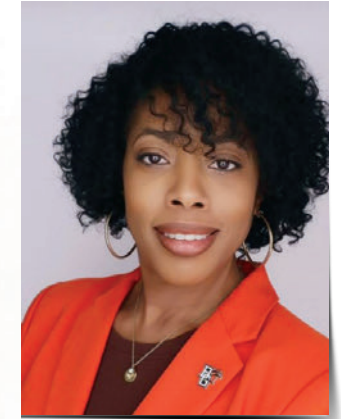
[2024-2025 Annual Report]



BGSU | **Firelands**

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

BGSU Firelands is here for *everyone* in our community.



A year ago, we began a new journey at BGSU Firelands with a strategic plan that honors our past and looks to our future. This academic year, 2024–2025, is our first real opportunity to put that plan into action.

As you look through these pages, I hope you see more than outcomes. What stands out is the collective effort behind moving our vision forward. Whether expanding access, rethinking teaching, building community partnerships, or improving operations, it has been a campus-wide effort. Faculty, staff, and students have worked together to turn plans into real progress.

Together, we have:

- Clarified how we work and communicate, laying the foundation for greater accountability and transparency across teams.
- Enhanced student pathways and workforce partnerships, aligning our efforts with the region's evolving needs.
- Expanded collaboration with community and industry partners, deepening trust and shared purpose.
- Begun shaping a long-term vision for innovation and growth—built through collective insight and action.

This first year has been about laying the groundwork, ensuring our structures, priorities, and commitments support our students and community. The progress you see is not due to one person or department, but the result of many people working together and staying committed to our shared goals.

As we approach our 60th Anniversary in 2025–2026, I think about what makes BGSU Firelands special. It is our people and our campus, where education feels personal and connections matter. We remain committed to access and affordability, always working to open doors for every student.

Guided by our core values of Access and Affordability, Student Success, Excellence in Education, Community Engagement, and Innovation and Growth, we move forward with confidence and purpose. We are rooted in community and rising with vision.

Thank you for your partnership, your trust in our mission, and everything you do to make BGSU Firelands a place where access leads to opportunity and real change.

With gratitude and purpose,

Allia L. Carter

Allia L. Carter, PhD '12
Dean, BGSU Firelands

Our mission *in action*

Bowling Green State University Firelands College is an affordable and accessible campus where all learners are welcome and supported. Students can earn degrees and credentials that prepare them for careers, advanced studies, and personal enrichment. We foster strong connections with the community, creating opportunities for collaboration, education, research, and workforce development.

“My time at BGSU Firelands was some of the most formative of my life... *They helped me build confidence.* Part of the reason I’ve excelled is because of that support system.”

— La-Shawna Stegall '16

Our shared vision
for regional impact

BGSU Firelands Strategic Plan



OPPORTUNITY *Lives Here*

At BGSU Firelands, access isn't just what we offer—it's who we are.

For nearly 60 years, our campus has opened doors to possibility for learners of every age, background, and ambition. We are the bridge between education and community, where opportunity meets affordability, and where human connection transforms potential into purpose.

In 2025, that legacy of access and impact earned national recognition.

Our scale is our strength. We are small enough to know every student by name and story, yet large enough to connect them to the full resources and global reach of Bowling Green State University. Rooted deeply in the Firelands region, we respond to local needs with programs that prepare learners for careers, advanced study, and lifelong growth.

National Recognition: A Defining Milestone

BGSU Firelands was named an "Opportunity College and University" by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the American Council on Education (ACE).

This inaugural *Student Access and Earnings Classification* honors institutions that enroll more underrepresented and Pell-eligible students than expected—and whose graduates exceed projected earnings for their region and demographics.

Out of nearly 4,000 degree-granting institutions nationwide, only 16% received this distinction. Firelands earned this honor not through application, but through performance—by

standing out in a comprehensive, independent analysis of public data.

This recognition affirms our mission of affordability, access, and workforce relevance, and highlights our role as a catalyst for economic mobility in North Central Ohio. It proves what our students and partners already know:

BGSU Firelands is a smart investment—and a gateway to a better future.

For students balancing work, school, and family, it reinforces that education here is personal, possible, and powerful. For our community, it underscores Firelands' essential role as a regional

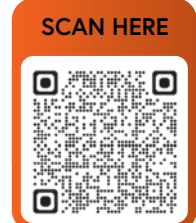
engine of prosperity, talent retention, and educational excellence.

As we look ahead, this national designation strengthens our voice in regional partnerships, workforce initiatives, and philanthropic collaborations. It confirms that *public colleges like Firelands* are driving high-impact outcomes for students and communities—and are vital to the future of American higher education.

We are honored to be recognized among the nation's leaders in access and earnings outcomes. This achievement belongs to our students, faculty, staff, and community partners who turn access into achievement every day.



*Carnegie + ACE named
BGSU Firelands
among the top 16%
of colleges advancing
opportunity and
post-graduate earnings.*



Strategic Priority #1 – Access & Enrollment

At BGSU Firelands, *access is a promise.*

Whether it's a high school student getting a head start, a first-generation learner charting a new path, or a working adult returning to college, we meet students where they are and walk beside them toward what's next.

Guided by BGSU's shared vision to redefine student success, our Access & Enrollment strategy is rooted in equity, driven by data, and strengthened through collaboration. Access isn't just about who we enroll—it's about how we welcome, support, and empower them to thrive.

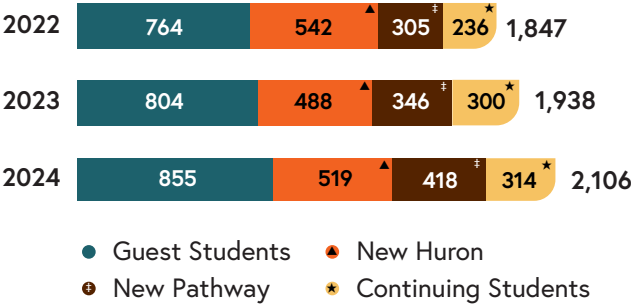
- In 2024–2025, that meant:
- Expanding dual enrollment partnerships with area high schools
 - Building new pathways for adult and post-traditional learners
 - Increasing scholarships to remove financial barriers
 - Designing career-aligned certificate programs
 - Strengthening first-year support to foster early success

Firelands remains a place where *education is within reach—and every learner belongs.*

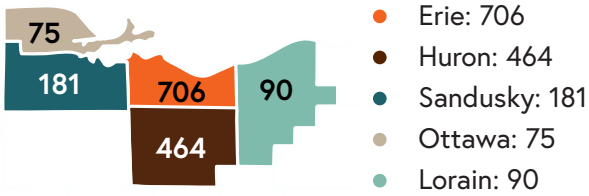


Enrollment Momentum:
Who We Serve, How We're Growing

Fall Semester TOTAL HEADCOUNT



Top 5 COUNTIES OF RESIDENCE



24
AVERAGE AGE

65%
FULL-TIME

First-year class BREAKOUT

	Huron	Pathway
Average GPA	3.03	2.57
Percent male	33 %	46 %
Historically underrepresented communities	29 %	49 %
Pell eligible	55 %	63 %
First generation	58 %	45 %

Top 5 MAJORS

- Associate of Science
- Inclusive Early Childhood Education
- Associate of Arts
- Small Business Enterprise
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography

Persistence FALL-TO-SPRING RETENTION RATE TRENDS

HURON
UNDERGRADUATE
STUDENTS

72.3%
2022 - 2023

78.8%
2023 - 2024

82.6%
2024 - 2025



Completion with Purpose: Celebrating the Class of 2025

This year, BGSU Firelands proudly celebrated

435 graduates

across three commencement ceremonies—December 14, May 3, and August 9. From traditional students to working professionals, each graduate represented a journey marked by resilience, ambition, and purpose.

Among them were 16 high school students who earned associate degrees through Ohio's College Credit Plus (CCP) program—our largest CCP graduating class to date. These students balanced high school, college coursework, and extracurriculars to accomplish a remarkable milestone before receiving their high school diplomas.

Whether first-generation college students, parents returning to finish what they started, or teens blazing bold new paths, the Class of 2025 exemplified what it means to finish with purpose—and step confidently into the future.

Each diploma represents not just a finish line—but the courage to begin again, keep going, and inspire others to do the same.



[Voices of the Graduates]



“Graduating from Firelands was more than earning a degree—*it was becoming the person I always wanted to be.* I found my voice and my calling.”

Jayda Jackson

Associate of Science (2019)

Technical Staff Chemical Engineer II at Eastman Chemical Company (2019)



“Without BGSU Firelands, *I would be two years behind where I am today.*”

Kye Scott

CCP graduate from Sandusky who earned an Associate of Science while still in high school. (2022)



“Firelands feels like home. I’ve taken classes at the main campus, but the experience here is unparalleled. The faculty and staff genuinely want to see students succeed. *My degree opened doors to leadership, advocacy, and a future in medicine*—and it all started here.”

Kalli Ann Gregory

Associate of Science (2022)



“Earning my degree gave me the confidence and foundation to pursue my dreams. *I discovered my strength, my passion, and my path forward.*”

Keelie Webb
Bachelor of Science in Education (Early Childhood Education) (2009)
Director of Firelands Montessori



“When you walk through the college and say ‘hello’ to someone, they remember you. *That’s what makes me proud to be a Falcon.*”

Monica Cox
Social work graduate and U.S. Air Force veteran (2022)



“My degree from *BGSU Firelands equipped me with the skills to grow professionally and personally.* I learned to lead, to problem-solve, and to serve my community.”

Caleb Wiedenheft
Bachelor of Science Business Administration (2017)
Chief estimator at Mack Iron Works



“*Graduating from Firelands transformed my future.* I never imagined how much it would change my life—and the lives of those I now help every day.”

Kendra Faulkner
Bachelors Visual Communications (Currently Digital Content Creation) (2011)
Co-founder and executive director of OHgo

The Class of 2025 – By the Numbers

Celebrating Achievement Across All Ages and Pathways

December 2024 Graduates



TOTAL GRADUATES

435

TOTAL DEGREES
CONFERRED

December 14 – 126
May 3 – 203
August 9 – 106

MOST COMMON MAJORS/PROGRAMS

- Associate of Science
- Inclusive Early Childhood Education
- Associates of Arts
- Small Business Enterprise
- Diagnostic Medical Sonography

GRADUATE
AGE RANGE

17 to 57
Average age 24

**FINISH
WHAT YOU
STARTED – 80**

This initiative helped **80 former students** who had paused their education—many with over 60 credit hours—**return to Firelands and complete their degrees.** Their success proves that it's never too late to finish what you start.

DEGREE BREAKDOWN

375 associate degrees

44 bachelor's degrees

16 high school students
earned degrees
through College
Credit Plus (CCP)

August 2025 Graduates



Recognition of Academic Excellence:
Honoring Our Highest Achievers

At BGSU Firelands, academic honors reflect discipline, perseverance, and a commitment to learning. For 2024–2025, we proudly recognized Logan Fenn, a Resort and Attraction Management graduate, with the President's Award for perfect academic achievement. Joining him in the highest tier of excellence are 17 associate degree graduates earning Highest Distinction. Together, these students represent the pinnacle of purposeful achievement at Firelands, proving that dedication turns ambition into extraordinary success.



Summer 2025

- Alizabith Nicole Ann Walton

Spring 2025

- Emalee Anderson-Richards (Milan)
- Kaylee Anderson-Richards (Milan)
- Elle Ballard (Norwalk)
- Alyssa Enderle (Huron)
- Alexandria Focht (Milan)
- Grace Gardner (Sandusky)
- Jenna Herzog (Sandusky)
- Kailey Kerns (Sheffield Village)
- Elaina King (Bellevue)
- Lissa Mallory (Port Clinton)
- Jennifer Miller (Monroeville)
- Dominic Myers (Sandusky)
- Savannah Willis (Sandusky)

Fall 2024

- Ronald Ellison (New London)
- Chase Linkenbach (Sandusky)
- Anton Malmstrom (Osterhaninge, Stockholm)



“I love knowing I can go to *BGSU Firelands* with my daughter if I need to *study*, do homework and not fall behind.”
— Essence Mcracken, Associate of Science 2026



“Too much was on my plate, and I was feeling the old familiar urge to quit school. *Instead of quitting, I contacted my advisor at BGSU Firelands.* She talked me through how to lighten my load while keeping me on the path to graduation.”
— Julia Nickell, Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies 2023

Anything Is Possible:

Marcus Cobbs Returns to College Through Amazon Career Choice

When Marcus Cobbs decided to return to college, he wasn't just chasing a degree—he was building a better future for himself and his young son.

A program manager and business analyst for Amazon, Cobbs re-enrolled at BGSU Firelands in 2023 through the **Amazon Career Choice** program, which provides tuition support for Amazon employees pursuing degrees and certifications in high-demand fields.

"Going back to school has definitely been time well spent for me," he said. "I can already see the value in earning my degree and putting myself in a better place for future promotions."

Cobbs originally began his studies at Firelands in 2016 but stepped away to care for his ill mother and raise his son. Seven years later, he returned—determined to finish what he started. In May 2025, he earned his Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies (BTAS) degree.

"The campus has almost a family feel to it," he said. "Despite everything else demanding my time, Firelands made it seamless. Instructors were accessible, and the support was there when I needed it."

Cobbs now presents to audiences of 1,500 to 2,000 people in his role with Amazon. He credits his coursework with strengthening his skill set, preparing him for bigger challenges, and giving

him the confidence to apply to BGSU's MBA program with a focus on supply chain management.

But his motivation goes beyond career growth.

"This is so important to me because as a single father, I wanted to set an example for my son—to show him that no matter how tough things get, anything is possible," he said.

Cobbs also drew inspiration from his stepmother, who earned her degree from Firelands in her late fifties. Watching her walk across the stage reminded him that it's never too late to achieve your goals.

With persistence, support, and purpose, Marcus Cobbs proved what's possible—at Firelands and beyond.



SCAN HERE



Investing in Success: The Impact of Scholarships

At BGSU Firelands, scholarships are more than financial aid—they are a powerful investment in students, families, and the region's future workforce.

In 2024–2025, Firelands awarded **\$224,971 in scholarships** to 160 students, reducing barriers to college access and helping students stay enrolled, thrive academically, and reach their goals.

Many of these awards are made possible through **community partnerships**, like The Sandusky Promise and **SHS for Success**, which provide renewable funding for local students attending the Huron campus. Other initiatives align **dual enrollment courses** with career pathways to maximize affordability and workforce readiness.

These scholarships serve a dual purpose: they help students move forward—and help our region grow stronger.

“When we remove financial barriers, we unleash potential. Scholarships don’t just fund education—they *create opportunity.*”
— Rob Drapcho, Director of Enrollment Management

Isabella Blakely – Fueled by Support, Ready to Serve

Nursing major | Sandusky High School Career Tech Center graduate

Thanks to early college credit and multiple scholarships—including a \$2,000 Student of the Year Award, Isabella is earning her nursing degree while gaining hands-on experience at Firelands Regional Medical Center.

“The scholarships made it possible for me to focus on what matters—*learning, caring, and growing.*”

Her story reflects what happens when access, talent development, and community support come together.



Impact at a Glance

Scholarship Support by the Numbers

160 students awarded
scholarships in 2024-2025

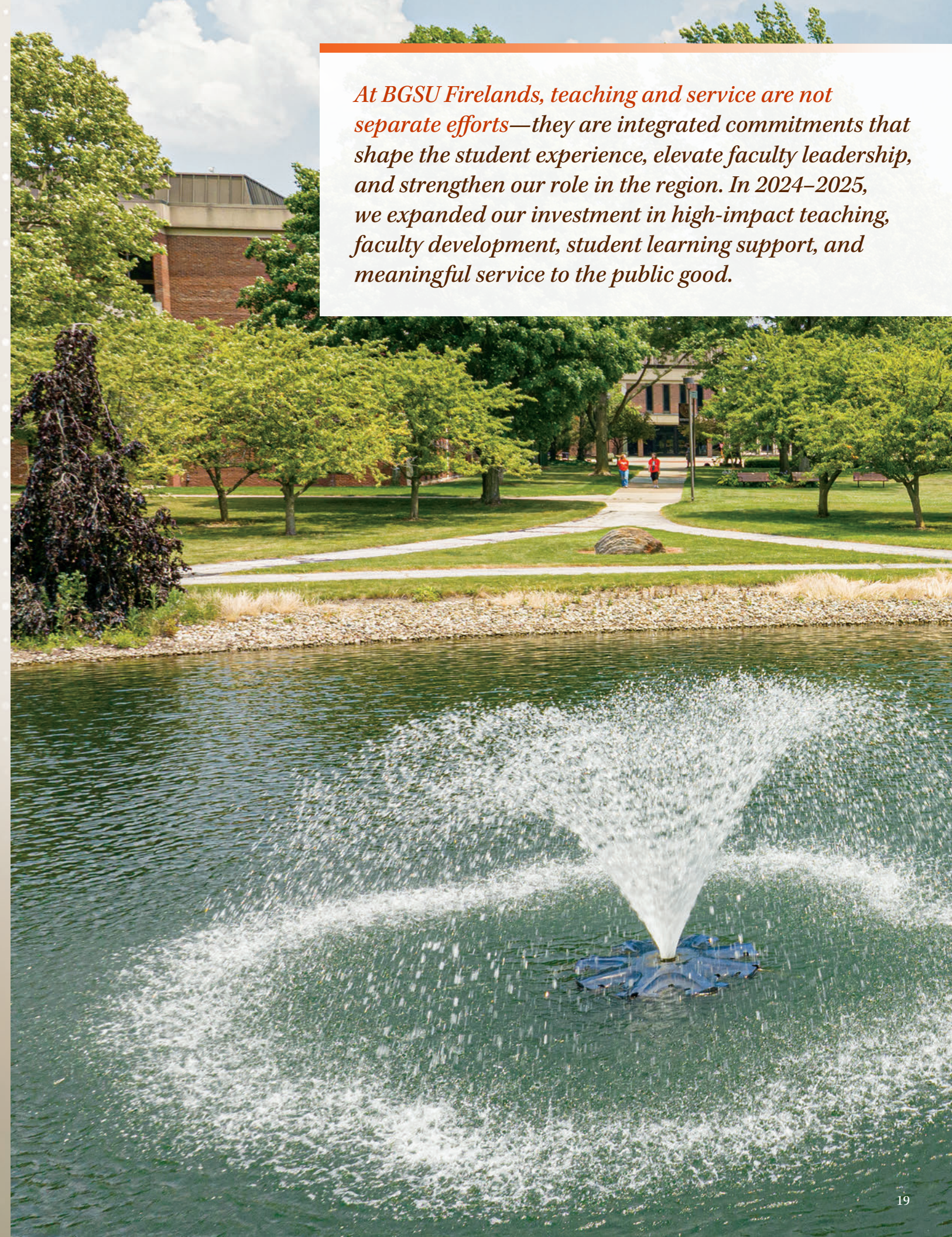
\$224,971 total
scholarship dollars awarded

Over 70% of recipients are from the Firelands service region

TOP AWARDS

- SHS for Success
- Sandusky Promise
- Firelands Foundation Scholarships

BGSU
Firelands
BOWLING GREEN
STATE UNIVERSITY



At BGSU Firelands, teaching and service are not separate efforts—they are integrated commitments that shape the student experience, elevate faculty leadership, and strengthen our role in the region. In 2024–2025, we expanded our investment in high-impact teaching, faculty development, student learning support, and meaningful service to the public good.

At BGSU Firelands, *teaching and service are how we lead.*

They shape student success, elevate faculty impact, and extend learning far beyond the classroom.

Aligned with BGSU Forward's mission to create public good through research, innovation, and inclusive excellence, our faculty and staff foster real-world learning rooted in relevance, equity, and care.

In 2024–2025, that meant:

- Launching the Bachelor of General Studies and redesigning the AA degree
- Securing a RAPIDS 7 grant to develop a virtual cybersecurity lab
- Achieving 100% job placement for our sonography graduates
- Advancing interdisciplinary research in environmental science and labor trafficking
- Expanding high-touch support through the Teaching and Learning Center and Academic & Career Counseling

At Firelands, teaching and service excellence is how we fulfill our promise—to educate, to innovate, and to inspire transformation.



The Academic Engine:
Leading with Excellence

FACULTY LEADERSHIP AT A GLANCE

BGSU Firelands' three academic departments fuel the core of our teaching and service mission. Led by accomplished scholars and community-engaged educators, each department delivers innovative programming that reflects the needs of our students and region.



APPLIED SCIENCES

chaired by Dr. Elsy Thomas Kizhakethalackal, Professor of Economics



“During the 2024–25 academic year, the Applied Sciences Department made strategic changes—including curriculum updates and flexible delivery options—to successfully grow enrollment across its programs. The department is actively developing stackable certificate pathways that allow students to build credentials incrementally toward advanced qualifications. Additionally, plans are in progress to enhance student engagement through industry-aligned co curricular activities that help students get real-world experience while preparing them for the job market.” — Elsy Kizhakethalackal

HUMANITIES

chaired by Dr. Raymond Schuck, Professor of Communication



“Under the slogan “The Humanities: Now More Than Ever,” in 2024-2025 the Humanities Department continued its focus on providing beneficial educational experiences to Firelands students. This included offering numerous general education BGP courses across various modalities, maintaining the early childhood inclusive education and communication 3+1 programs, and beginning work on revision of the Associate of Arts degree. Perhaps most notably, the department ushered through approval of the Bachelor of General Studies degree program, which is awaiting final approval by the State of Ohio Department of Higher Education, with hopes of beginning acceptance of students during the 2025-2026 academic year.” — Ray Schuck

NATURAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

chaired by Tracy McGinley, Teaching Professor of Criminal Justice



“We don’t just teach subjects—we teach students. Our work is about relevance, curiosity, and impact.” — Tracy McGinley

Securing the Future *Through Cybersecurity Education*

BGSU Firelands is shaping the next generation of digital defenders. With support from a \$135,000 RAPIDS 7 grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, the college will launch a state-of-the-art remote-access Networking and Cybersecurity Lab in Spring 2026—broadening access to IT education across North Central Ohio.

Led by Dr. Nathan Percival, Program Director and Assistant Teaching Professor, the lab will simulate real-world environments where students can train in ethical hacking, network security, cloud computing, and systems administration. From securing digital infrastructure to defending against cyber threats, learners will build in-demand skills that align with industry needs.

The virtual format will allow students to log in from anywhere, eliminating barriers for rural, adult, and nontraditional learners. This hands-on, immersive environment replicates enterprise-level systems, enabling students to experiment and problem-solve in real time—without the risks of a live network.

By combining flexibility with career-focused instruction, the lab enhances both access and academic rigor. It creates a powerful pipeline of local cybersecurity talent ready to meet growing workforce demands.

As cyber risks increase across industries, BGSU Firelands is not just preparing students to enter the digital workforce—it's equipping them to lead it.

Computer Networking & Cybersecurity

Prepare for one of today's fastest-growing fields with hands-on training in systems, security, and network management. Aligned with industry certifications like CompTIA and Cisco, this program builds career-ready skills for roles in IT support, cybersecurity, and infrastructure protection.



Ryan Cook '23
(former BTAS student)

From Skills to Supervision: Growth of the BTAS Program

The Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies (BTAS) has emerged as a cornerstone of BGSU Firelands' commitment to adult learners, degree completion, and workforce advancement. Since 2019, enrollment in the program has nearly tripled, reflecting its rising value for professionals with applied associate degrees who are ready to step into supervisory and leadership roles.

Tailored for working adults and returning learners, the BTAS curriculum builds in-demand skills in leadership, workplace communication, data analysis, and digital strategy. Students can earn credit for prior learning and participate in internships—ensuring they gain both recognition for what they know and momentum toward what's next.

The program is more than a credential, it's a launchpad for those transitioning from technical

roles to management, entrepreneurship, or advanced study. Delivered in flexible formats and grounded in real-world relevance, the BTAS supports both regional workforce needs and individual upward mobility.

"The BTAS is an innovative program that helps students apply business knowledge to grow their careers and entrepreneurial goals," said Dr. Michelle Brodke, Professor and Director, BTAS. "We've seen tenfold growth since its launch—serving not only our region but online learners across the country."

As industries evolve and skilled workers seek new opportunities, BGSU Firelands stands ready—with pathways like BTAS that meet students where they are and prepare them for what's next.

BTAS in Small Business Entrepreneurship

This flexible bachelor's degree empowers students to transition into roles to leadership by building expertise in marketing, financial management, workplace communication, and innovation—ideal for entrepreneurs, supervisors, or professionals ready to grow their impact in small business environments.



Meeting the Moment: Healthcare Professions at BGSU Firelands

At BGSU Firelands, healthcare education is more than a career pathway—it's a community lifeline. From nursing and sonography to respiratory care and radiologic technology, our programs are built to meet urgent workforce needs while empowering students to make a meaningful impact. Offered in flexible formats and backed by strong clinical partnerships,

these programs provide students with the skills, experience, and credentials to thrive in today's fast-changing healthcare landscape. Whether pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree, our students receive hands-on training, dedicated faculty mentorship, and direct access to local employment opportunities within reach of their own communities.

Where learning saves lives, and careers begin *close to home*.



Expanding Access in Healthcare: A New Era for Respiratory Care

In a transformative step forward, BGSU Firelands graduated its first cohort of bachelor's degree students in Respiratory Care through a new hybrid format in 2025. Designed with working adults and career changers in mind, the program blends online coursework with in-person clinical experiences, offering the flexibility students need—without sacrificing the hands-on training the field demands.

The program begins with the Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care, a two-year foundation that prepares students for national credentialing and immediate employment. Students then seamlessly transition into the Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care, available fully online, allowing them to advance their credentials while continuing to work in the field.

Clinical partnerships, including new collaborations with ProMedica, enable students to complete real-world training in a variety of healthcare settings. This not only expands the program's regional impact, but also ensures

graduates are equipped to meet the growing demand for credentialed respiratory therapists across Ohio and beyond.

With the flexibility to start at BGSU Firelands and complete advanced training online, students have a clear, affordable, and accessible pathway from entry-level credentials to professional advancement—all close to home.

As the healthcare industry continues to evolve, BGSU Firelands is meeting the moment—training respiratory care professionals who are technically skilled, clinically ready, and deeply committed to patient well-being.

"There's never been a better time to become a respiratory therapist. With generous scholarships and tuition support from our clinical partners, students can work in the profession while completing the program. It's a unique opportunity to learn, earn, and launch a meaningful career," Carol Puder, Program Director, Respiratory Care.



Diagnostic Medical Sonography: Career-Ready from Day One

In 2024, BGSU Firelands' Diagnostic Medical Sonography program reached a major milestone: 100% job placement for all graduates. This achievement is a testament to the program's alignment with healthcare industry needs and its commitment to clinical excellence.

Two new clinical sites were added this year, and students gained access to updated ultrasound equipment—training on the same technology they'll use in the field. Many of these graduates began their careers at trusted local partners, including Firelands Regional Medical Center.

As hospitals and clinics continue to face staffing shortages, Firelands students are stepping up—well-prepared, well-trained, and ready to make a difference from day one.

"BGSU Firelands DMS provides a high-caliber CAAHEP-accredited program where students find small class sizes and classes led by dedicated faculty. The students are well prepared and trained in updated equipment in the dedicated Sonography lab. We prepare students through education and real-world experiences at our local clinical partnerships using outcome-based teaching. Students are well prepared for entry-level employment in the Sonography career," Cara M. Vickery, MS Ed. RDMS RT (R), (M), (CV) | Program Director, Diagnostic Medical Sonography.



A Pipeline to Progress: Nursing Pathways at BGSU Firelands and FIRELANDSHEALTH

BGSU Firelands and Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing (FRMCSN) offer a hospital-based model of nursing education that blends classroom instruction with hands-on laboratory, simulations, and clinical experience. Students complete foundational coursework at BGSU Firelands, then transition into the FRMCSN diploma program, culminating in licensure and a non-nursing associate degree.

Among the Class of 2025 (28 students), outcomes include:

- 89% retention rate
- 65% on time completion
- 100% licensure passage rate on the first attempt
- 100% job placement
- \$32.03 average hourly wage

Current enrollment remains strong with nearly 100 students across three cohorts, and the program is fully accredited and state-approved through 2028-2029.

"The partnership between BGSU Firelands and FRMCSN sets the nursing program apart from all others in the area. This affordable option educates safe, competent, and caring future nurses in two to three years, while uniquely offering opportunities for employment and a seamless transition into the BGSU RN to BSN program online," Dawn A. Wikel, MSN, RN, CNE Director | Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing.

Together, BGSU Firelands and FRMCSN are preparing the next generation of nurses—right here, where they're needed most.



Faster, Smarter Paths to Graduation

At BGSU Firelands, every credit count and every student matter. That's why the college has redesigned its Associate of Arts (AA) degree to help learners graduate sooner, save more, and stay on track for long-term success.

Now requiring just 60 credit hours, the AA degree meets Ohio's statewide push to increase college completion and reduce time-to-degree. The program is also available fully online, making it an ideal fit for:

- Working adults ready to return to school
- Dual-enrolled high school students earning early college credit
- Transfer students seeking a seamless academic bridge

Students can finish the degree in as little as four semesters, then "stack" it into bachelor's programs in high-demand fields like business, criminal justice, education, and social science.

"This is about more than efficiency—it's about removing barriers," Dr. Stephanie M. Walls, Associate Dean for Academic & Student Affairs, Professor of Political Science. "We want students to gain momentum, graduate with confidence, and pursue their goals without unnecessary delay or cost."

With this bold redesign, BGSU Firelands is proving that pathways to success don't need to be long—they just need to be clear, flexible, and built with students in mind.

Associate of Arts (AA) – Fast, Flexible, Transfer-Ready

Complete your degree in just four semesters with our redesigned 60-credit AA program—now fully online. Ideal for working adults, dual-enrolled students, and transfer learners, this degree seamlessly stacks into bachelor's programs in business, education, criminal justice, and more.



Unlocking Opportunity: New Bachelor of General Studies

BGSU Firelands is preparing to launch a new **Bachelor of General Studies (BGS)**—a flexible degree built for adult learners and returning students who have earned at least 60 college credit hours or an associate degree.

Recently approved through all university stages and awaiting final ODHE authorization, the BGS empowers learners to complete their degree online or in a hybrid format, applying previously earned credits toward a personalized academic plan aligned with career goals. With over **1.4 million Ohioans** holding some college credit but no degree, this program fills a critical statewide need—turning past progress into future potential. Once finalized, the BGS will expand access to bachelor's credentials and reinforce BGSU Firelands' leadership in workforce-aligned, adult-friendly education.

"The Bachelor of General Studies degree offers a tremendous opportunity for both students and Firelands College. It will provide a path for BGSU Firelands students looking for a specialized bachelor's degree that crosses disciplinary and college borders to obtain that goal. It will also allow students across the university who have invested considerable time and effort toward a bachelor's degree but have not found a clear home in the university's other program offerings to fulfill their dream of a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University. Meanwhile, the program establishes a bachelor's degree program at BGSU Firelands that utilizes the academic flexibility and interdisciplinarity that are central to the college's mission. The BGS program is a natural fit for BGSU Firelands and its current and prospective students," Ray Schuck, Professor and Chair of Humanities.



Bowling Green State University has launched the Labor Trafficking Education and Research Initiative

**Empowering Change:
Labor Trafficking Initiative**

Bowling Green State University has launched the Labor Trafficking Education and Research Initiative to address a critical but often overlooked side of human trafficking. Developed by Professors Tracy McGinley and Lara Wilken, the initiative is based at BGSU Firelands to better serve vulnerable seasonal work populations in rural regions.

For over a decade, McGinley and Wilken have provided statewide prevention education to law enforcement, schools, and hospitals. This new initiative provides a larger platform to bridge the knowledge gap between sex and labor trafficking. By fostering cross-sector partnerships and survivor-informed research, the program aims to inform state policy and improve support services.

As Wilken notes, education is paramount in identifying victims who walk among us every day. Through this initiative, BGSU Firelands is driving meaningful change and elevating public awareness to create a safer, more informed Ohio.

Human Trafficking at a Glance

- 27.6 million people are victims of human trafficking worldwide
Source: International Labor Organization
- 77% are exploited through forced labor
- 23% are exploited through sex trafficking
- Human trafficking occurs in all 50 U.S. states, including Ohio
- Labor trafficking affects mostly adults, often hidden in everyday industries
Source: Human Trafficking Quick Facts / Homeland Security

Learn more about BGSU Labor Trafficking Education and Research Initiative

Contact Us
Tracy McGinley: tracygm@bgsu.edu
Lara Wilken: lwilken@bgsu.edu

SCAN HERE



BGSU Firelands receives a **\$35K grant** to enhance environmental science education in high schools.

SCAN HERE

Stream Smart:

Firelands Empowers Students to Protect Local Waterways

With a \$35,000 grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, BGSU Firelands is leading applied research to safeguard the Lake Erie region. Led by Dr. Subhalakshmi Nagarajan, the Stream Smart project engages more than 100 high school

and college students in hands-on water quality monitoring of Sawmill Creek and Pipe Creek. Students analyze and share real data statewide, building leadership skills while protecting vital regional resources for future generations.

Learning Beyond the Classroom: *Student Success in Action*

At BGSU Firelands, learning doesn't end when class is dismissed. Across campus and in the community, we cultivate a culture of support, mentorship, and belonging that empowers students to thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

Whether it's the personalized guidance of Academic and Career Counseling, the tutoring and instructional innovation of the Teaching and Learning Center, or holistic wraparound support programs like Clark Inclusive Scholars, ElderCollege, and Pathway—our commitment to student success is comprehensive and bold.

These initiatives don't just enhance retention, they transform lives. They demonstrate how Firelands delivers on its promise of access and excellence, one student at a time.



TLC by the Numbers: 2024–2025 Snapshot

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
up 18%

**NEW FACULTY
WORKSHOPS LAUNCHED:**
*"So, You've Never Been a Teacher?"
and "Are You Teaching or Talking?"*

**EXPANDED
OUTREACH**
into local high schools

**TUTORING, ACADEMIC COACHING,
AND FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING
support provided year-round**

*The TLC remains a vital force in
helping students persist, connect,
and succeed—inside and outside
the classroom.*

Where Support Becomes Success: Celebrating 40 Years of the Teaching and Learning Center

In February 2025, the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) at BGSU Firelands celebrated 40 years of transforming how students learn, persist, and thrive. Originally launched in 1984 by Dean Algaele Adams as a small tutoring initiative, the TLC has grown into a full-scale academic support hub—empowering thousands of learners over four decades.

Under the leadership of Brigitte Green-Churchwell, the TLC continues to adapt to changing student needs. Today, it offers professional tutoring, academic coaching, writing labs, and foundational instruction, while extending outreach to local high schools. Its long-standing mantra— *"We are Falcons helping Falcons to the degree sought"*—remains a guiding force.

In its milestone year, the TLC recorded an 18% increase in student engagement, surpassing expectations and reaffirming its role as a cornerstone of student success. Just as importantly, it deepened its commitment to equity and access—supporting students not just academically, but holistically.

As BGSU Firelands continues to evolve, the TLC stands ready for the next chapter—serving as a vibrant bridge between where students begin and who they're becoming.

Advising That Connects: **Academic & Career Counseling with Impact**



In 2024–2025, the Academic and Career Counseling (ACC) team at BGSU Firelands strengthened its mission to provide clear, compassionate, and career-connected guidance for all students. Focused on retention and student momentum, the team achieved a 1.44% increase in cohort retention—rising from 52.02% to 53.46%.

This year, ACC counselors introduced digital group orientation modules to streamline onboarding and build early community among new students, including College Credit Plus (CCP) participants. More than 80% of students expressed satisfaction with their advising experience, thanks in part to expanded use of Navigates appointment summaries and increased integration with Kuhlin Career Services and Life Design.

Despite limited staffing, ACC continued to deliver high-touch, responsive support—launching "Career Week" programming and piloting Fall 2025 CCP sections. Their work reflects a deep commitment to helping students navigate their academic journeys with confidence, clarity, and purpose.

"Academic and Career Counseling at BGSU Firelands reinforced its mission to deliver clear, compassionate, and career-connected guidance for all students. Through various new initiatives we saw increases in student retention, student career programming and overall student satisfaction with their advising experience," Jennifer Buening, Director of Academic and Career Counseling.

Clark Inclusive Scholars: **Celebrating Limitless Potential**

In 2024–2025, the Clark Inclusive Scholars Program continued to break barriers and expand what's possible for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Twenty scholars completed the academic year, engaging in over 30 electives alongside their typical peers—an extraordinary demonstration of inclusion in action.

The program celebrated a major milestone with 10 graduates, eight of whom secured employment immediately after graduation. Two additional scholars chose to continue their education by pursuing associate degrees at BGSU Firelands. In spring, the campus hosted the inaugural Limitless! Conference, Ohio's first student-centered inclusive postsecondary education event. The conference brought together students and professionals from five colleges across the region to share resources,

tell stories, and strengthen networks.

Looking ahead, the program is preparing to welcome 11 new students in Fall 2025. With a strong community, a spirit of self-determination, and a commitment to inclusive excellence, the Clark Inclusive Scholars are leading a statewide movement to expand access and redefine student success.

"I am excited for the 11 new students to start their first fall semester in the Clark Program! This class is from a range of counties, schools and backgrounds, which shows the growth of the program and the overall success of the graduates. I hope we continue to evolve to get the students the best possible experience while they are here at BGSU Firelands," Kyle Closen, Associate Teaching Professor/Director of the Clark Inclusive Scholar Program.



Celebrating Faculty Excellence and Campus Service

At BGSU Firelands, we take pride in recognizing the individuals whose leadership, scholarship, and service shape the student experience and strengthen our campus community. In 2024–2025, we honored faculty for their academic advancement, celebrated new emeritus distinctions, and bid a fond farewell to long-serving faculty and staff whose legacies will endure.

Faculty Promotions: Advancing Academic Leadership

The BGSU Board of Trustees approved the following faculty promotions for 2025–2026, recognizing years of teaching excellence, mentorship, and institutional impact:

Promoted to Teaching Professor:

- Megan Ashker, MS – Department of Applied Sciences
- Karen Black, M.Ed. – Department of Applied Sciences
- Dr. Mary Wisnom, Ph.D. – Department of Applied Sciences

Promoted to Associate Teaching Professor:

- Kyle Closen, M.Ed. – Department of Humanities
- Megan Green, MFA – Department of Humanities
- Andrew Hartke, MA – Department of Natural and Social Sciences
- Matthew Rome, MA – Department of Humanities

Emeritus Status: Honoring a Legacy of Scholarship

BGSU awarded *Emeritus* status to three faculty members whose dedication has made a lasting impression on our campus:

- Martin Anderson – Department of Applied Sciences
- Dr. Sue Ellen McComas – Department of Humanities
- Dr. Timothy Jurkovac – Department of Natural and Social Sciences

Retirements:

Saluting Faculty and Staff Who Made a Difference

This year, we also recognized the retirements of faculty and staff whose contributions have enriched BGSU Firelands for decades. Their work in instruction, operations, and student support will leave a lasting mark on the institution.

2024–2025 Faculty and Staff Retirements:



Marty Anderson, *Teaching Professor, Applied Sciences*

"BGSU Firelands changed my life completely. I came to BGSU Firelands as a student to validate my knowledge with an associate's degree and returning to the workforce. My wife and I met as students at BGSU Firelands and nearly 30 years later, I retired as an Emeritus Teaching Professor. It was a pleasure to spend this season of my life in the academic community of BGSU."

Gerry Dabney, *Custodian (2006–2025)*

For nearly two decades, Gerry Dabney served the Firelands campus with dedication, reliability, and quiet strength. Her presence contributed to the daily rhythm of campus life, and her retirement marks the close of a chapter defined by steadfast commitment and care for our shared spaces.



Dr. Tim Jurkovac, *Associate Professor, Natural and Social Sciences*

"Three plus decades. Doesn't it go by in a blink. What can I say? BGSU Firelands is quite simply, home."



Leonard Klohn, *Custodian (2003–2025)*

Leonard Klohn's 22 years at BGSU Firelands reflected a work ethic grounded in consistency and humility. From early mornings to late closings, Leo helped keep the campus running smoothly. His retirement reminds us that behind every great institution are people who show up every day and do the work with integrity.



Dr. Sue Ellen McComas, *Associate Professor, Humanities*

"Teaching has never just been a job, it's been a calling. I've had the joy of seeing students grow, overcome, and shine in ways they never thought possible. As I retire, I carry with me every story, every lesson, and every student who taught me as much as I hope I taught them."



Dr. Cindy Miglietti, *Professor, Applied Sciences*

"After 40 years of teaching, conducting research, and service at BGSU Firelands, I have had the privilege of teaching remarkable students and working with outstanding colleagues. I am especially thankful for the two sabbatical opportunities that I had as a 2005–2006 Fulbright Scholar and 2013 Fulbright Specialist to teach finance at the Silesian University School of Business Administration in Karviná, Czech Republic. It has been my pleasure and honor to teach accounting and finance to business students and hear how their business degree has provided them with great career opportunities."



Dr. David Sapp, *Professor, Humanities*

"Each semester, it was a delight to witness students' first encounters with the world of art history and the actualization of their creative process in the studio. The arts are essential in any academic setting where general education is offered. They reflect our identity as a civilization and provide a priceless outlet for the human spirit."



Dr. Mary Wisnom, *Associate Teaching Professor, Resort and Attraction Management*

"As I retire from my role, I look back with pride on 30 years spent preparing students for an industry built on service, resilience, and connection. The classroom was a place to blend theory with real-world practice and BGSU's Resort and Attraction Management program is perfectly positioned to do just that. Watching students grow into confident, capable professionals has been the most rewarding part of the job. Though I retire from the role, I will forever be a professor in spirit, grateful for the privilege of shaping and being shaped by generations of students."

Strategic Priority #3 – Community Impact

Community isn’t just where we are—
it’s who we are.

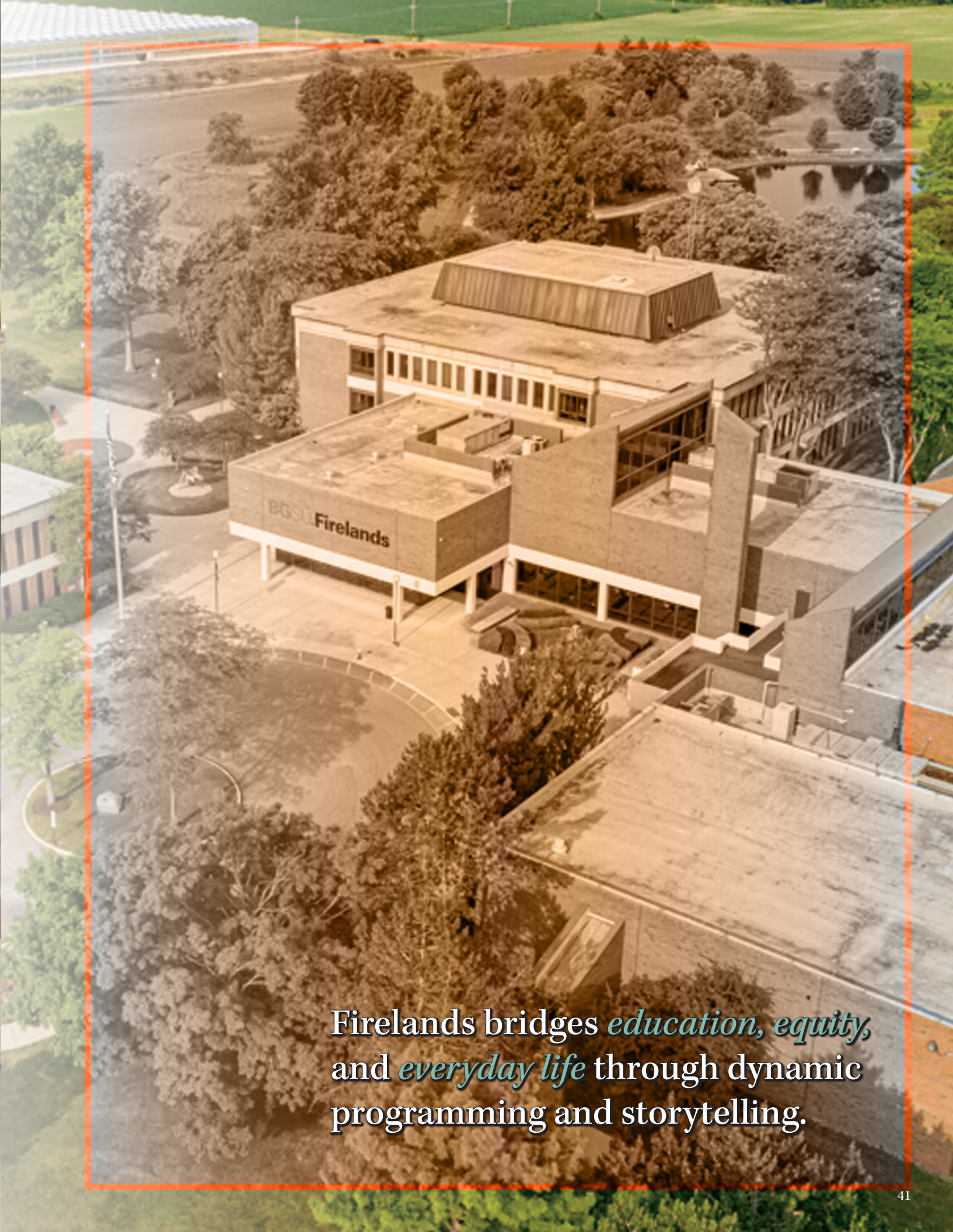
Our commitment to the public good comes alive through partnerships, programs, and purposeful engagement that strengthen families, connect generations, and drive regional vitality.

Aligned with university-wide goals for civic engagement and well-being, Firelands bridges education, equity, and everyday life through dynamic programming and storytelling.

In 2024–2025, that meant:

- Strengthening literacy through justice-based and intergenerational programs
- Honoring excellence in faculty, staff, and student-centered leadership
- Hosting civic, cultural, and professional development events across the region
- Building bridges between education, industry, and community innovation

Our work reflects a shared purpose:
meeting community needs through connection, collaboration, and care.



Firelands bridges *education, equity,*
and *everyday life* through dynamic
programming and storytelling.



Longtime BGSU Firelands faculty member honored as Distinguished Teaching Professor *for his teaching excellence, commitment to students*

For Dr. Michael Kimaïd, teaching isn't just about coursework. It's about curiosity, community and seeing the world with fresh eyes.

Kimaïd, a longtime faculty member at BGSU Firelands, was named a Distinguished Teaching Professor—an honor that recognizes his interdisciplinary approach, dedication to students and passion for academic growth.

"It's humbling," Kimaïd said. "When I sit around a table with my colleagues here at the Firelands campus or at the BG campus, I'm in awe of their knowledge, their command of their fields and their comprehensive understanding of academic matters. I think of this recognition as a reflection of the collaborative environment at BGSU, and especially here at Firelands."

Since joining BGSU in 2003, Kimaïd has taught courses in history and geography, often blending disciplines in ways that challenge students to think critically about the world around them.

"Dr. Kimaïd has consistently demonstrated an exceptional mastery of his subject matter," said Dr. Allia Carter, dean of BGSU Firelands. "His student-centered approach, innovative pedagogy and experience across both campuses truly set him apart. He embodies excellence in education, and we are so proud of this recognition."

Kimaïd's classroom is one where rigor meets empathy. He sets high expectations but walks alongside students as they meet him, learning and growing in real time. "Setting a high bar means challenging students to practice real academic discipline," Kimaïd said. "At first, the

rigor can be overwhelming—but over time, they grow into it. They develop as scholars."

That growth often extends beyond the classroom. In one of his American history courses, students research local historical markers, visit them in person and reflect on the ways the past still resonates in present-day landscapes. The result? Places they've walked by for years suddenly come alive with meaning.

"It's a great lesson in how history resonates in the places we live," Kimaïd said.

Engagement, he added, starts with him.

"If I keep myself excited, the students will be too," he said. "They get to research topics that matter to them—things tied to their careers, their hobbies, their curiosity. That kind of freedom gives them a deeper appreciation for history and helps them grow both academically and personally."

Kimaïd credited recently retired faculty member Tim Jurkovac for nominating him for the Distinguished Teaching Professor honor.

"Tim was my mentor and friend from my first day on the job," he said. "This is a parting gift I'll always appreciate."

He also thanked Carter, his departmental colleagues, BGSU Firelands faculty and staff, his students and his family.

"I'm grateful for their trust, their support and their belief in what we do here," he said.

Since joining BGSU in 2003, Kimaïd has taught courses in history and geography, often *blending disciplines in ways that challenge students to think critically about the world around them.*

SCAN HERE





Julie Hamann

*Receives 2025 Dr. Michael R. Ferrari Award
for Administrative Staff Excellence*

For Julie Hamann, excellence isn't just a professional goal, it's a personal legacy. A proud alumna of BGSU Firelands, she began her journey in a one-year, no-benefits role and went on to shape the very technology infrastructure and event operations that serve the campus today. In 2025, her decades of leadership, mentorship, and innovation were recognized with the Dr. Michael R. Ferrari Award, the highest honor for an administrative staff member at BGSU.

Hamann now serves as Director of Technology Support Services, a role that includes oversight of IT, AV services, distance learning, and event management. "Julie is our go-to," wrote PJ Mays, Assistant Dean for Institutional Effectiveness. "She works nights, weekends, and special events—and always shows up with excellence."

Beyond tech, Julie has shaped lives. She advised student government for 25 years, helped launch ElderCollege and the Clark Inclusive Scholars Program, and mentored hundreds of student workers. "Julie's relationship with the university community is her superpower," said Dr. Andrew Kurtz, Associate Professor. "She leads with care, earns respect, and inspires trust."

Julie's recent accomplishments reflect that leadership in action. She exceeded revenue goals in her first year managing campus events, advised on budget and capital committees, and earned her master's in learning design. "You can lead from wherever you are," she said. "That's always been my approach."

"She is the glue that holds things together," added Mark Charville, Director of Branch Campus Finance and Operations. "Julie never loses sight of the mission, and she gives freely of her time, skills, and heart to ensure the success of our students and campus."

Julie Hamann's story is one of resilience, impact, and the transformative power of service. Her legacy is not only in systems built—but in people empowered.



Faculty Feature: Dr. Michelle Brodke

Leading with Purpose and Passion

For more than 15 years, Dr. Michelle Brodke has helped shape BGSU Firelands through her steadfast leadership, student-centered teaching, and commitment to real-world impact. As Professor of Business Management and Director of the Bachelor of Technical and Applied Studies (BTAS) program, she brings both expertise and heart to everything she does.

With a Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology, Dr. Brodke builds pathways for students to apply business concepts in meaningful ways, from leadership and innovation to data-driven decision-making. Her students don't just complete projects, they build résumés, tackle real-world problems, and gain experiences that shape careers.

Beyond the classroom, Michelle has contributed to projects with the City of Perrysburg, the Greater Sandusky Partnership, and even international nonprofits. She believes work should serve both individuals and organizations—and that education is one of the most powerful ways to build that bridge.

As outgoing Chair of the BGSU Firelands Faculty, Dr. Brodke led with transparency, structure, and deep respect for faculty voice. Her service helped guide college conversations and move initiatives forward with integrity and collaboration.

We thank Dr. Brodke for her leadership and years of dedicated service. She exemplifies what it means to lead with both excellence and empathy.

Welcome TO OUR NEW FACULTY CHAIR

We are pleased to welcome **Clayton Chiarelott**, Assistant Teaching Professor of English, as the incoming Faculty Chair for 2025–2026. We look forward to his continued contributions to our shared academic mission.



Clayton Chiarelott
Assistant Teaching Professor of English

Honoring excellence in teaching, scholarship and service

Each year, BGSU Firelands shines a spotlight on faculty and staff whose dedication, creativity and leadership elevate the campus community. The 2025 honorees embody the spirit of excellence that defines Firelands, making a lasting difference in the lives of students and colleagues alike.



Sharyl Wahl, Senior Administrative Assistant, Office of the Dean

The Distinguished Classified Staff Award was presented to Sharyl Wahl, whose steady commitment to service and care for students has set a standard of excellence across campus. Her work reflects the vital role classified staff play in building a welcoming and supportive learning environment.



Kristia DeBlase, Academic & Career Counselor

Krista DeBlase received the Distinguished Administrative Staff Award, recognizing her professionalism and leadership. Her ability to navigate complex challenges while keeping student success at the center of her work exemplifies the strength of BGSU Firelands' administrative team.



Ron Werdebaugh

Teaching excellence was also in the spotlight this year. Ron Werdebaugh, recipient of the Distinguished Part-Time Teacher Award, was celebrated for the energy and insight he brings to his classrooms. His impact on students reflects the value of part-time instructors who dedicate themselves to high-quality instruction.



Matt Rome, Associate Teaching Professor, English and Writing, Department of Humanities

The Distinguished Teacher Award was presented to Matt Rome, whose innovative approach to teaching and mentoring continues to inspire students and colleagues alike. Known for his passion and creativity, Rome has shaped an environment where learning is both challenging and deeply rewarding.



Raymond Schuck, Professor, Communication | Humanities Department Chair

Scholarship and creativity were recognized through the Creative Scholar Award, given to Dr. Raymond Schuck, professor of communication and chair of the Humanities Department. Over the past four years, Schuck has distinguished himself with publications exploring sport, culture and communication, as well as active mentorship of student researchers and contributions to national and international scholarly conversations.



Christine Celestino-Boes

Assistant Director,
Pathway Advising & Career Counseling



Rob Drapcho

Director
Enrollment Management



Andrew Hartke

Associate Teaching Professor
Mathematics & Pathway Coordinator



Sarah Jurden

Director
Student Success Strategies & Initiatives



Matthew Rome

Assistant Teaching Professor
English



Stephanie Walls

Associate Dean for Academic
& Student Affairs

The Dean's Special Recognition Award honored the Pathway Committee, including Christine Celestino-Boes, Rob Drapcho, Andrew Hartke, Sarah Jurden, Matt Rome and Stephanie Walls, for their visionary work reimagining the Pathway Program. Once a small initiative serving a few dozen students, the program now supports more than 400 annually. Through their careful planning and commitment, the committee has laid the groundwork for long-term student success.

Reflecting on this year's honorees...

“These individuals remind us what makes BGSU Firelands special, the dedication to students, the innovation in teaching, and the belief that education changes lives. Our faculty and staff go above and beyond, not just to teach or support students, but to truly transform their futures. This year’s honorees represent the very best of who we are.”— Dean Allia Carter

Together, the 2025 honorees represent the heart of BGSU Firelands: a community of educators and professionals dedicated to empowering students and shaping the future.

[...explore, connect, and
grow *through learning*]

ElderCollege: Lifelong Learning, Timeless Curiosity

At BGSU Firelands, we believe that curiosity never retires. Now in its 26th year, ElderCollege continues to inspire older adults—ages 50 and up—to explore, connect, and grow through learning.

In 2024–2025, more than 630 course registrations were recorded across 36 engaging offerings, ranging from expert-led seminars and local history tours to creative workshops and online explorations. Participants not only expanded their minds, but also built friendships, shared stories, and stayed meaningfully engaged with their community.

A highlight of the year was a field trip to the Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage, supported by a \$2,200 grant from the Ohio History Connection. The outing sparked new

conversations around culture, identity, and shared history.

ElderCollege also launched a partnership with BGSU's Optimal Aging Institute, bringing fresh energy and intergenerational insights to future programming—including new wellness initiatives and collaborative events with graduate students.

Looking ahead, 2025–2026 will feature a Senior Resource Fair, enhanced marketing, and a reimagined Curriculum Board—ensuring the program evolves with the community it serves.

Whether you're passionate about history, arts, science, or simply curious about the world, ElderCollege invites you to keep learning—at your pace, in your way.

Interested
in joining?



eldercollege@bgsu.edu



419.372.0823



Where Prairie Meets Purpose:

Fire, Renewal, and the Legacy of McBride Arboretum

BGSU Firelands – Huron, Ohio

It began as a vision—an open landscape behind a community college, imagined by a founding dean and his wife as more than grass and trees. Today, that dream lives on through native prairie blooms, winding forest paths, and the rhythmic crackle of fire igniting renewal.

In March 2025, the James H. McBride Arboretum once again came alive—not with the burst of spring buds, but with flame.

The prescribed burn, a carefully managed fire conducted in partnership with Erie MetroParks, marked a powerful moment in the Arboretum's 40-year story. Designed to restore and rejuvenate native prairie ecosystems, the burn was part science, part stewardship, and all heart.

"This is how a prairie breathes," said John Blakeman, founder of Meadow Environments LLC and original planter of the Arboretum's native grasslands. "It thrives not in spite of fire, but because of it."

Led by certified burn managers and supported by a team of volunteers and naturalists, the operation targeted high-quality local prairie plots—many of which are now used to harvest native seeds for future conservation efforts. The weather conditions had to be just right: 55+ degrees, dry air, steady but safe winds. Nature gave the green light, and the team got to work.

BGSU Firelands faculty, including those from the Natural and Social Sciences division, see the Arboretum as more than scenery—it's a living laboratory. With updated signage and deeper faculty engagement ahead, students and community members alike will soon be able to track blooming cycles, study succession ecology, and learn how

native landscapes are maintained through traditional methods like fire.

"Education here doesn't just happen in the classroom," said Dr. Allia Carter, Dean of BGSU Firelands. "The Arboretum reminds us that when you care for something deeply—land, people, community it flourishes."



More Than a Burn

The fire may last an afternoon, but its impact spans seasons. The burn clears away invasive growth, returns nutrients to the soil, and sets the stage for the prairies to thrive. Native species—like big bluestem, purple coneflower, and rattlesnake master—emerge stronger, reclaiming their space in the Ohio landscape.

More Than a Park

The McBride Arboretum is open to all. Whether you're a student on break, a local resident seeking stillness, or a hiker tracing the curve of Parker Lake, this 250-acre treasure offers more than beauty, it offers belonging.

As the smoke cleared this spring, the legacy of Dr. James McBride burned brighter than ever: that education should be rooted in nature, sustained through care, and shared with the community.

Want to experience
the McBride Arboretum
for yourself?
Visit McBride Arboretum
for directions, history, and
seasonal highlights.
Interested in volunteering,
donating, or bringing your class
to the Arboretum?
Contact:
firelands@bgsu.edu



Rooted in Literacy: Growing Minds, Strengthening Communities

At BGSU Firelands, literacy is more than foundational—it's transformational. In 2024–2025, the college championed literacy in unexpected spaces: from correctional facilities

to forest trails. Each initiative reflects the belief that reading changes lives, connects generations, and creates public good.

Reaching Hearts Through Pages: Literacy at the Erie County Jail

In collaboration with the Erie County Jail, BGSU Firelands helped launch Aunt Mary's Storybook, a literacy initiative that allows incarcerated parents to record themselves reading books aloud for their children. With support from the Seeds of Empowerment Women's Group, participants select a book, record a heartfelt reading, and mail the recording and book to their child.

"This is more than reading—it's restoration," said a program volunteer.

For parents, it's a way to remain present in their child's life. For children, it's a chance to hear a familiar voice—offering comfort, connection, and continuity.

"As part of the overarching Life Recovery Group, we're honored to help lessen the trauma caused by separation," said Dr. Lara Wilken. "It's about reuniting families and planting seeds of healing." Criminal Justice Professor Tracy McGinley added, "Watching the thought and emotion each participant put into selecting and reading their book was incredibly powerful. This initiative has lasting impact."



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The Right to Read: Literacy as a Civil Right

BGSU Firelands hosted community screenings of *The Right to Read*, a nationally acclaimed documentary exploring the literacy crisis in America, especially its impact on marginalized communities.

Held at McBride Auditorium and the Huron Public Library, the event opened space for civic dialogue and reflection.

"This film is a wake-up call," said Dean Allia Carter. "It challenges us to ensure literacy is not a privilege, but a promise. Everyone deserves access to the power of reading."

Though the initial audience was modest, it laid the foundation for future school-based viewings and sparked ongoing literacy engagement.



Stories Under the Trees: A Trail of Literacy and Wonder

Partnering with the Huron Public Library and supported by Rotary Club of Huron funding, BGSU Firelands helped bring a Storybook Trail to life at the James H. McBride Arboretum. The trail features seasonal children's books posted along a scenic walking path—merging outdoor activity with early literacy.

"Our goal was to create an experience where

families could learn, walk, and wonder together," said Jennifer Buch, Director of the Huron Public Library.

The trail has already become a favorite for school field trips and summer camps, with future enhancements including curated playlists, themed activities, and rotating titles.

The Pathway Program at Firelands: **Start Here, Go Anywhere**

Celebrating a Decade of Growth, Access, and Student Success

In 2024–2025, the Pathway Program marked a powerful milestone: it reached its largest cohort in history, enrolling 418 students. What began in 2014 with just 18 students has evolved into a nationally recognized, high-impact model of access and support.

Designed for students who show academic promise but may not meet direct-admission criteria, Pathway offers a structured first-year experience that includes small classes, dedicated advising, early alerts, peer mentoring, and a campus culture that fosters deep connection and confidence.

This year, the program achieved an 85.9% fall-to-spring persistence rate, with more than 65%

continuing into year two. We hosted our first End-of-Year Celebration, reached salary equity for full-time faculty, and welcomed two new instructors. The addition of a full-time Academic Coordinator further strengthened instructional alignment and communication.

Whether students arrived directly from high school or returned after time away, the Pathway Program helped them start strong and stay supported—living and learning in Bowling Green while being taught and guided by BGSU Firelands faculty and staff. Together, we're not only changing student trajectories, but also building a new legacy of inclusive excellence rooted in the Firelands mission.



Pathway Student Spotlight: Kortni Clisby

Finding Her Voice, Leading with Heart

As the third sibling in her family to enter the Pathway Program at BGSU Firelands, Kortni Clisby brought a legacy of courage and carved her own path with purpose. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, she entered college in Fall 2021 with the usual fears of fitting in and falling behind. But what she found in Pathway was a vibrant, supportive community that helped her grow in confidence and connection.

Sharing classes with the same cohort allowed her to build lasting friendships, while professors nurtured her academic journey. Now a senior majoring in Inclusive Early Childhood Education, Kortni is preparing to graduate in Spring 2025. Her dream? To become the kind of teacher who sees potential in every child—just as her professors saw in her.

“I found professors who reached out. I found classmates who became friends. I found confidence I didn’t know I had.”

— Kortni Clisby, 2021 Pathway Cohort



Faculty Spotlight: Andrew Hartke

Building the Pathway, One Student at a Time

As the inaugural academic coordinator of the Pathway Program and a proud Firelands alum, Andrew Hartke has become a cornerstone of student success and academic continuity at BGSU Firelands. Since joining the faculty in 2017, he has been known not only for his strength in mathematics but for his deep commitment to community-building among faculty, staff, and students.

In 2024–2025, Andrew helped guide the Pathway Program through a transformational year. He supported nearly 40 adjunct instructors, improved scheduling systems, and strengthened alignment with main campus faculty—all while keeping students at the center. His thoughtful planning

even accounted for class transitions and walking paths across campus.

But Andrew's leadership goes beyond logistics. He launched a weekly Common Hour to build student belonging, advocated for study sessions in the Learning Commons, and worked to foster a shared faculty culture focused on persistence and equity.

"Pathway gave me the chance to grow as an educator—and now I want to make sure it gives every student the same opportunity to grow as a learner," Andrew Hartke, Associate Teaching Professor, Natural and Social Science, and Pathway Coordinator.



Staff Spotlight: Christine Celestino-Boes

A Legacy of Support, Centered on Students

With nearly 30 years at BGSU and deep roots in both advising and advocacy, Christine Celestino-Boes is more than the Assistant Director of the Pathway Program—she's its heart. A lifelong educator and parent of a Pathway alum, Christine brings unmatched insight, compassion, and commitment to every student interaction.

"My students are the reason I show up every day," she said. "Every year brings new stories, new growth. Being part of their journey—from nervous first days to confident graduates—is the greatest reward."

Since joining the Pathway team, Christine has played an instrumental role in guiding students through the transition to college life. Her thoughtful, student-centered approach has built

trust, increased persistence, and created an environment where students know they belong.

Beyond advising, Christine is a mentor to aspiring educators and higher ed professionals, often sharing, "If it is to be, then it's up to me." Her leadership is grounded in action—and fueled by a deep belief in student potential, and her impact is felt across generations. At Firelands, she doesn't just help students start—she helps them soar.

"My job is to meet students where they are and help them see where they can go. Sometimes they just need someone to believe in them until they can believe in themselves," Christine Celestino-Boes, Assistant Director, Pathway Advising and Career.

Pathway by the Numbers

2024-2025 Highlights

418 students enrolled – our largest cohort in Pathway history

35% first-generation students

28 Thompson Scholars

49 Students honored for academic excellence in writing & mathematics

100+ tutoring sessions in math and writing (TLC-Supported)

5+ Learning Community events: workshops, mixers & academic skill builders

the Class of 2024 is counting down to commencement: May 6, 2028

Cohort Growth Over Time (15th day enrollment)

Cohort	Students	Cohort	Students
2014	18	2020	200
2015	40	2021	268
2016	47	2022	306
2017	117	2023	346
2018	214	2024	418
2019	275		

Pathway enrollment has grown by more than 2,000% since its first cohort in 2014

“The Pathway Program continues to be a signature model of access, support, and success. *It reflects who we are—and who we’re becoming as a campus.*”

— Dr. Allia L. Carter, Dean



Moments That Matter:

Building Belonging at BGSU Firelands

At BGSU Firelands, community is more than our location—it's our purpose.

In 2024–2025, we deepened our commitment to connection through a vibrant calendar of events that celebrated identity, sparked learning, and expanded access to opportunity. These moments weren't just scheduled, they were strategically designed to reflect our mission: serving students, uplifting neighbors, and advancing the public good.

From the joyful energy of **Week of Welcome** and **Falcon Fest** to the reverent reflection of our **59th Founders Day Anniversary**, we honored tradition while inviting fresh participation. Events like **Harvest Fest** and **Graduation Recognition** brought families together in celebration, while civic-minded initiatives like the **MLK Day of Service** reinforced our shared values of justice, generosity, and equity.

- BGSU Firelands also served as a catalyst for **career and workforce development**:
- **Fall 2024 Career Week** gave students practical tools and pathways for success, linking them to regional employers.
 - **Allied Health Day** in March united students and faculty from nursing, sonography, respiratory care, and other programs for a day of learning, collaboration, and interprofessional exploration.
 - The **Small Business Symposium** in April, themed "Collaboration: Broaden Your Horizons," brought local entrepreneurs and business students together. Keynote speaker **Andria Loczi** of H.CO Partners inspired attendees to embrace innovation and partnership.

Each event created powerful ripple effects—raising **regional awareness** of BGSU Firelands, showcasing our leadership in access and workforce development, and reinforcing our identity as a **hub of learning, service, and culture**.

"These events are more than just gatherings," said Dr. Allia L. Carter, Dean of BGSU Firelands. "They're our way of living the mission—where relationships are built, identities are affirmed, and transformation begins."

Through intentional programming, inclusive partnerships, and joyful traditions, **BGSU Firelands is not just in the community—we are for the community.**

BY THE NUMBERS

9 major community-facing events held

50+ regional partners engaged

100s of students connected to mentors, employers, and support services

1000+ community members welcomed to campus

Strategic Priority #4 – Operational Excellence

At BGSU Firelands, *operational excellence is about more than efficiency—it’s about how we serve people well.*

Every process, space, and system is shaped by integrity, collaboration, and care. Behind every policy is a purpose: to create a student-ready college that operates with transparency, agility, and accountability.

In 2024–2025, that meant:

- Reimagining how spaces support both learning and community use
- Improving systems that enhance teaching, scheduling, and daily operations
- Prioritizing financial transparency and resource stewardship
- Elevating collaboration across departments to serve students with clarity and compassion

These behind-the-scenes efforts strengthen how we deliver excellence every day—ensuring that Firelands remains a place where people, purpose, and progress work in harmony.



From Sound Budgeting to Strategic Surplus:
A Banner Year in Fiscal Stewardship

In a year marked by economic uncertainty and rising costs, BGSU Firelands didn't just stay the course—it surged ahead. The campus closed Fiscal Year 2025 with a budgetary surplus, driven by a 9.7% increase in revenue and disciplined expense management (limited to a 4.9% year-over-year increase).

Two key drivers led the way:
8.7% Enrollment growth
A 330% increase in facility rental revenue
a reflection of both operational efficiency and Firelands' growing market appeal.

"This surplus isn't about cutting corners—it's about making smart decisions that serve students," said Mark Charville, Director of Budget and Operations. "It gives us the flexibility to invest where it matters most."

Strategic Reinvestment:
The surplus was used to reinvest in deferred maintenance, technology upgrades, and capital improvements—directly supporting campus priorities.

Looking ahead, Firelands is laying the groundwork for a new reserve fund in FY26 to further strengthen financial sustainability and future-readiness.

This year's results affirm Firelands' approach to budget stewardship: align resources with mission, support students at every turn, and build a resilient foundation for what's next.

FY2025 Budget Snapshot
Smart Spending. Strategic Surplus

Total Revenue: \$14.6M (107% of budget)	Total Expenses: \$13.9M (101.8% of budget)	Net Funds Available: \$703,502 surplus
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Key Revenue Drivers: +8.5% increase in tuition revenue +330% increase in facility rental income	Strategic Use of Surplus: Deferred maintenance projects Reserve fund planning for FY26 Technology and infrastructure upgrades
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Budget outcomes reflect Firelands' commitment to financial stewardship, operational efficiency, and reinvestment in student-ready spaces.



A Foundation for the Future: Capital Projects That Power Student Success

At BGSU Firelands, operational excellence means more than keeping the lights on—it means building an environment where students can thrive. In 2024–2025, the Office of Budget and Operations completed or launched 11 key capital projects to improve safety, technology, and the overall student experience.

From new classroom projectors to better parking and climate control, each upgrade was designed with one goal in mind: create a campus that supports success, inside and outside the classroom.

"We're not just maintaining facilities—we're modernizing them with purpose," said Mark Charville, Director of Budget and Operations. "When our buildings work better, our students can focus more on learning."

COMPLETED OR IN-PROGRESS PROJECTS:

- ✓ Replaced Cedar Point Center auditorium flooring
- ✓ Upgraded HVAC controls in CPC
- ✓ Resurfaced the north parking lot
- ✓ Renovated the ECT Lab (RAPIDS grant-supported)
- ✓ Upgraded fire suppression systems (CEC building)
- ✓ Repaired campus boiler system
- ✓ Enhanced exterior lighting for safety and visibility
- ✓ Renovated Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) roof
- ✓ Updated interior lobby signage
- ✓ Improved wood shop lighting
- ✓ Replaced select classroom projectors and screens

Backed by state funding, RAPIDS grants, and local investments, these projects are part of a long-term vision to make Firelands more student-ready, technologically advanced, and community-connected.

What's next?

Plans are underway for library renovations, smart classroom integration, and expanded energy-efficient LED lighting, all part of a future-forward strategy that makes every square foot count.



Reimagining Campus Use: Monetizing with Purpose

As academic programs increasingly shift online, the role of physical space on campus is evolving.

At BGSU Firelands, this change has sparked innovation—not retreat. In 2024–2025, the college launched a bold effort to reimagine and monetize underutilized facilities in ways that generate revenue, strengthen community ties, and expand access to campus resources.

At the heart of this initiative is longtime staff member Julie Hamann, whose vision and leadership helped transform an idea into impact. Through her direction, Firelands built a new Event Management operation that:

- Tripled facility rental income
- Hosted professional trainings, camps, and community events

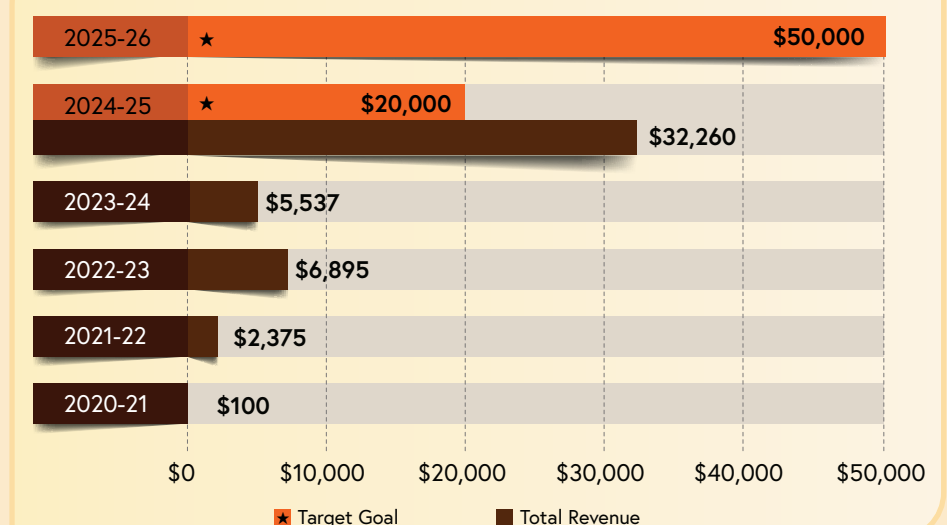
- Attracted regional partners and new audiences to campus

"Julie was instrumental in making this vision a reality," said Dr. Allia L. Carter, Dean of Firelands College. "Her leadership translated ideas into outcomes."

Why it matters: In a time of tightening budgets and shifting demand, this approach reflects a new kind of stewardship—one that combines strategy with service. Firelands isn't just renting rooms; it's leveraging campus assets to support students, serve the region, and sustain the mission.

As one planning team member put it: "We're not just renting space. We're extending our mission in new and sustainable ways."

FACILITIES RENTAL REVENUE



Rooted in Generosity:
One Day. One Purpose. One Firelands.

In April 2025, the Firelands community showed up—not with fanfare, but with quiet, heartfelt generosity. Inspired by the spirit of The Giving Tree, we asked our supporters to give what they could—to help students facing real barriers stay on the path to success. And give, they did.

Together, we raised **\$28,326**, exceeding our goal by **41%** and more than **tripling last year's total**. Even more inspiring was a **150% increase in donor participation**, growing from 35 to 86 donors. Every gift, every share, every act of advocacy reflected a community deeply committed to the future of BGSU Firelands.

These weren't just donations.

They became:

- Emergency assistance for students in crisis
- Help with transportation, meals, and course materials
- Scholarships that made education more attainable

Because of your support, more students stayed enrolled, stayed focused, and stayed on track to graduate.

Because of you, the promise of Firelands grows stronger.

“With an associate’s and support, I had options. Firelands gave me a path forward—even when life threw curveballs.”— Noah Jamison



Rooted in community. Rising with vision.

Together, we continue building a college where access leads to opportunity, and opportunity leads to transformation.

Celebrating
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Dean's List – Fall 2024 & Spring 2025

At BGSU Firelands, we are proud to honor the students whose dedication, discipline, and academic achievement earned them a place on the Dean's List.

These high achievers exemplify the very best of our college—balancing academic rigor with personal growth and purpose. Their commitment to excellence strengthens our learning community and reflects the values of hard work, perseverance, and intellectual curiosity.

Congratulations to all Dean's List students for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

Your success is a testament to your talent, tenacity, and future promise. We celebrate you today—and look forward to the impact you will make tomorrow.

FALL 2024

- Anora Aaron, Sandusky, OH
Averee Alexander, Sandusky, OH
Bailey Allen, Toledo, OH
Kaylee Altomare, Collins, OH
Alissa Anderson, Sandusky, OH
Kaylee Anderson Richards, Milan, OH
Emalee Anderson-Richards, Milan, OH
Catalina Ari, Sandusky, OH
Jacob Ashker, Lorain, OH
Elle, Ballard, Norwalk, OH
JorgieMae Bandelaria, Bowling Green, OH
Sophia Bartony, Woodland Hills, CA
Megan Batey, Bellevue, OH
Collin Baughman, Hudson, OH
Jenna Bauman, Huron, OH
Marissa Baynes, Norwalk, OH
Christian Bellitto, Port Clinton, OH
Ryley Below, Wapakoneta, OH
Adrian Benjamin, Clyde, OH
Isabella Blakely, Sandusky, OH
Alexis Bloom Attica, OH
Seth Bogner, Norwalk, OH
Anthony Boone, Toledo, OH
Macy Bowlin, Powell, OH
Mikaylah Bradley, Sandusky, OH
Chloe Branum, Bellevue, OH
Nancy Brown, Findlay, OH
Zachary Brown, Sandusky, OH
Phoenix Brunner, Huron, OH
Levi Burke, Toledo, OH
Lona Burns, Hilliard, OH
Nicolas Bussard, Prospect, OH
Ryleigh Butler, Monroeville, OH

- Ethan Butler, Sandusky, OH
Madison Carter, Garfield Hts, OH
Jasmine Cervantes, Norwalk, OH
Nolan Chambers, Huron, OH
Wesley Charlton, Blacklick, OH
Anchisa Chuenarrom, Findlay, OH
Vanessa Cifuentes, Greenwich, OH
Lizbeth Cisneros Calderon, Canton, OH
Marcus Cobbs, Sandusky, OH
Christian Collester, Danville, IN
Meredith Collins, Uniontown, OH
Briana Conley, Wakeman, OH
Kalea Conway, Sandusky, OH
Jaelynn Cook, Toledo, OH
Rachel Cox, Loveland, OH
Heather Cromer, Batavia, OH
Morgan Cummings, Norwalk, OH
Emily Currence, Huron, OH
Talia Darnell, Orient, OH
Kailey Dattilo, Cincinnati, OH
Owen Davis, Norwalk, OH
Alexa Dawkins, Dayton, OH
Karli Deel, Green Springs, OH
Kendall Dick, Bellevue, OH
Danni Dick, Bellevue, OH
Kyzer Dickerson, Toledo, OH
Nahreah Dixon, Mason, OH
Gabriel Dolsen, Norwalk, OH
Ahmaria Douglas, Cleveland, OH
Carter Downs, New London, OH
Austin Drown, Perrysburg, OH
Tavian Eddins, Van Wert, OH
Cleopatra Ellis, Liberty Township, OH
Jordan Engelhart, Bellevue, OH
Gabrielle Estep, Columbus, OH

McKenna Failor, Port Clinton, OH
Emma Farmer, Avon, OH
Brendan Feighan, Cleveland, OH
Allison Finkbeiner, Saline, MI
Elijah Fisher, Norwalk, OH
Sonny Flak, Vermilion, OH
Alexandria Focht, Milan, OH
Anaya Foster, Akron, OH
Wyatt Fox, Norwalk, OH
Monet Frye, Coshocton, OH
Kinsley Furr, Kenton, OH
Scemore Gaines, Akron, OH
Alec Galan, Sandusky, OH
Grace Gardner, Sandusky, OH
Aubriel Garza, Clyde, OH
Jonathan Gebremariam, Elyria, OH
Ellyana Gee, Norwalk, OH
Jessica Gerhardinger, Oberlin, OH
Autumn Gessling, Milan, OH
Brooke Gibbons, Port Clinton, OH
Cassandra Gibbs, Bellevue, OH
Savannah Gibson, New Bloomfield, PA
Wyatt Gilbert, Sandusky, OH
Rebecca Good, Norwalk, OH
Ava Grant, Vermilion, OH
Starr Graves, Cleveland, OH
India Gray, Bellevue, OH
Keegan Green, Huron, OH
Aurelian Greeno, N Baltimore, OH
Stephanie Grenier, Oak Harbor, OH
Micah Groot, Sandusky, OH
Deandra Gunn, Taylor, MI
Colton Hacker, Castalia, OH
Emma Haefele, North Olmsted, OH
Grace Hall, Willard, OH
Graci Halsey, Trenton, OH
Rihanna Hamilton, Toledo, OH
Evan Hammer, Findlay, OH
Michael Hamrock, Huron, OH
Roslyn Hancock, Amherst, OH
Avery Hann, Novelty, OH
Logan Hatfield, Broadview Hts, OH
Connor Heaps, Doylestown, OH
Mackenzie Heath, Bellevue, OH
Kolin Hein-Gibson, Liberty Twp, OH
Jenna Herzog, Sandusky, OH
Jacob Hessler, Cincinnati, OH
Lucas Hicks, Willard, OH
Autumn Highgate, Detroit, MI
Hannah Hoehn, Fort Jennings, OH
Avery Hoffman, Sandusky, OH
Bailey Holmer, New Washington, OH
Cody Homan, New Bremen, OH
Aries Hopkins, Toledo, OH
Griffin Hoppe, Saint Paul, MN
William Horvath, Toledo, OH
Gabriel Howell, Norwalk, OH
Kain Hoyt, Lksid Marblhd, OH

Kyle Huckleberry, Lorain, OH
Alexa Hurst, Norwalk, OH
Camryn Hurst, Norwalk, OH
Samuel Hutson, Whitehouse, OH
Michael Ingram, Sandusky, OH
Nicholas Isenberg, Camby, IN
Stephanie Jackson, Solon, OH
Bryce James, Sandusky, OH
Noah Jamison, Vermilion, OH
Jacinia Jean-Louis, Columbus, OH
Jaiden Johnson, Columbus, OH
Madison Jovanovski, Lorain, OH
Abby Juby, Norwalk, OH
Gabriel Karbler, Castalia, OH
Andrew Kayser, Findlay, OH
Abigail Keller, Sandusky, OH
Keira Keoghan, Milan, OH
Kailey Kerns, Sheffield Vlg, OH
Lillian Kessler, Huron, OH
Kathryn Keysor, Greenwich, OH
Kelsey Kilgore, Bellevue, OH
Kendall Kilgore, Asher, OK
Elaina King, Bellevue, OH
Sahida Koroma, Pickerington, OH
Alexandra Laws, Norwalk, OH
Dillon Lazer, Stow, OH
Isabella Lesch, Sandusky, OH
Kevin Lester, Lebanon, OH
Brooklyn Letanosky, Avon Lake, OH
Robin Lindsey, Sterling Heights, MI
Chase Linkenbach, Sandusky, OH
Bethany Longer, Berlin Hts, OH
Myiah Lumpkin, Medina, OH
Cody Lynn, Canton, OH
Abbigail Lyons, Port Clinton, OH
Riley Mabry, Huron, OH
Lissa Mallory, Port Clinton, OH
Grant Maloney, Norwalk, OH
Promise Markley, Wooster, OH
Ashton Martin, Bellevue, OH
Ishara Mason, Defiance, OH
Payton Mattern, Cleveland, OH
Nicholas Mazze, Lorain, OH
Fwenge Mbambara, Strongsville, OH
Brooke McClusky, Sandusky, OH
Whitney McCormack, Greenwich, OH
Diamond McDonald, Sandusky, OH
Nicholas McGreevey, Olmsted Falls, OH
Garrett McIntosh, Hanoverton, OH
Carson McKenzie, Bellevue, OH
Megan McMahan, Aurora, IL
Hope Mcnea, N Ridgeville, OH
Mary McNeeley, Fairview Park, OH
Amalie Metzger, Perrysburg, OH
Ruby Michalec, Vermilion, OH
Bryce Miller, Pemberville, OH
Jennifer Miller, Monroeville, OH

Connor Miller, Bellevue, OH
Jennifer Miller, Bellevue, OH
Tasneem Mohamedein, Toledo, OH
Felix Moindi, Sidney, OH
Emerie Moore, Avon, OH
Jacob Morse, Powell, OH
Braeden Mueller, Olmsted Twp, OH
Jillian Muirhead, Santa Clara, CA
Dominic Myers, Sandusky, OH
Dylan Myers, Sandusky, OH
Sevana Myers, Bowling Green, OH
Reed Nash, Sandusky, OH
Kylie Newman, Whitehouse, OH
Nolan Nickell, Monroe, OH
Kayla Nolan, Norwalk, OH
Nelia Nolan, Sandusky, OH
Janel Norman, Norwalk, OH
Debra Novotny, Avon Lake, OH
Abigail Ohm, Port Clinton, OH
Bethany Olvera, Willard, OH
Steven Oney, Port Clinton, OH
Summer Pankow, Bellevue, OH
Anderson Parker, Toledo, OH
Hannah Pasch, Huron, OH
Angelina Paxos, Canton, OH
Edward Paynter, Chardon, OH
Matthew Peake, Saginaw, MI
Evan Pearston, Sandusky, OH
Carmin Pentito, Amherst, OH
Hailey Perez, Fremont, OH
Loreli Phillips, Green Springs, OH
Anthony Pierson, Canton, OH
Elli Pitcher, Sandusky, OH
Jacqueline Ponce, Toledo, OH
Brooklyn Prince, Collins, OH
Montana Puckett, N Fairfield, OH
Connor Rademaker, Norwalk, OH
Leticia Rambo, Vermilion, OH
Jonathan Randall, Sandusky, OH
Tyson Raymond, Bellevue, OH
Alyssa Recker, Port Clinton, OH
Messina Reesman, Bellevue, OH
Hayden Reinhart, Perrysburg, OH
Gabrielle Reiter, Norwalk, OH
Josh Revels, Reynoldsburg, OH
Halle Rhoades, Rocky River, OH
Grace Ried, Berlin Hts, OH
Hannah Ried, Berlin Hts, OH
Kaitlyn Robinette, Huron, OH
Christopher Robinson, Sandusky, OH
Elaina Roche, Norwalk, OH
Savannah Rodgers, Huron, OH
Amelia Rospert, Norwalk, OH
Matthew Rost, Amherst, OH
Joshua Russell, Bowling Green, OH
Ricki Sanderson, Grafton, OH
Cynthia Sandoval, Strongsville, OH
Jasmine Saucedo, Norwalk, OH

Isabella Scally, Medina, OH
Emily Scheid, Monroeville, OH
Skylar Schiffer, Whitehouse, OH
Leah Schmittle, Amherst, OH
Keegan Schoen, Sandusky, OH
Kenna Scholes, Willard, OH
Teirsa Schreck-Newell, Sandusky, OH
Andrea Schwartz, Huron, OH
Corey Schwochow, Clyde, OH
Kyera Scott, University Ht, OH
Mira Sekerak, Port Clinton, OH
Abigail Shadle, Hilliard, OH
Heather Shepherd, Sandusky, OH
Melanie Shields, North Olmsted, OH
Emersyn Sinks, Waterville, OH
Ne'Chelle Smith, Memphis, TN
Bailey Smith, Westerville, OH
Mitchell Smith, Norwalk, OH
Rheanna Smith, Port Clinton, OH
Donovan Smith, Norwalk, OH
Kennedy Snyder, Oak Harbor, OH
Nicholas Sowers, Lksid Marblhd, OH
McKenna Stacy, Sandusky, OH
Sebastian Stephens de Salas, Miamisburg, OH
Samyrah Sterling, Toledo, OH
Molly Stonestreet, North Olmsted, OH
Bryce Straub, Perrysburg, OH
Kaydee Streng, Sandusky, OH
Emma Sturzinger, Sandusky, OH
Danielle Swanson, Bowling Green, OH
Adriana Swayngim, Vermilion, OH
Bianca Taras, Rittman, OH
Dylan Thomas, Norwalk, OH
Samantha Timerding, Port Clinton, OH
Johann Tonnessen, Norwalk, OH
Nikolas Torres, Cleveland, OH
Trevon Upshaw, University Heights, OH
Mason Usera, Mentor On Lk, OH
Megan Valentine, Genoa, OH
Nicholas Vallone, Sylvania, OH
Garrett Vaughn, Bloomville, OH
Marcus Vicars, Findlay, OH
Ava Villarreal, Monroe, MI
Brynn Vogel, Bellevue, OH
Hunter Vogus, Monroeville, OH
Julianna Walter, Toledo, OH
Alizabith Walton, Sandusky, OH
Sydney Waskielis, Bellevue, OH
Tyler Webb, Port Clinton, OH
Michael Welsh, Highland Hts., OH
Adam West, Sandusky, OH
Blaine Wheeler, Greenwich, OH
Jayden Whitacre, Lagrange, OH
Aiden White, Attica, OH
Sarah Wilford, Elyria, OH
Nicholas Williams, Lagrange, OH
Alyssa Wilson, Sandusky, OH
Heather Wilson, Sandusky, OH

Lauren Wolverton, *Columbus Grv, OH*
Aubrey Yost, *Sandusky, OH*
Naurica Young, *Lorain, OH*

Spring 2025

Alivia Adams, *Republic, OH*
Alissa Anderson, *Sandusky, OH*
Kaylee Anderson Richards, *Milan, OH*
Emalee Anderson-Richards, *Milan, OH*
Catalina Ari, *Sandusky, OH*
Alaina Balduff, *Norwalk, OH*
Elle Ballard, *Norwalk, OH*
Cydnie Barnicle, *Milan, OH*
Cassandra Barr, *Norwalk, OH*
Collin Baughman, *Hudson, OH*
Carson Bauman, *Norwalk, OH*
Jenna Bauman, *Huron, OH*
Kiara Beekman, *Findlay, OH*
Christian Bellitto, *Port Clinton, OH*
Adrian Benjamin, *Clyde, OH*
Isabella Blakely, *Sandusky, OH*
Alexis Bloom, *Attica, OH*
Blaire Blythe, *Massillon, OH*
Hillary Bogner, *Attica, OH*
Seth Bogner, *Norwalk, OH*
Macy Bowlin, *Powell, OH*
Chloe Branum, *Bellevue, OH*
Karsyn Brewer, *Vermilion, OH*
Nancy Brown, *Findlay, OH*
Phoenix Brunner, *Huron, OH*
Lona Burns, *Hilliard, OH*
Nicolas Bussard, *Prospect, OH*
Ryleigh Butler, *Monroeville, OH*
Ethan Butler, *Sandusky, OH*
Jade Cahlik, *Sandusky, OH*
Kendall Camp, *Huron, OH*
Kathryn Cannady, *Cincinnati, OH*
Owen Cantu, *Huron, OH*
Jasmine Cervantes, *Norwalk, OH*
Ashley Chaffin, *Bellevue, OH*
Nolan Chambers, *Huron, OH*
Anchisa Chuenarrom, *Findlay, OH*
Vanessa Cifuentes, *Greenwich, OH*
Lizbeth Cisneros Calderon, *Canton, OH*
Brock Clark, *Norwalk, OH*
Libby Cloud, *Bellevue, OH*
Grace Conner, *Bellevue, OH*
Kalea Conway, *Sandusky, OH*
Rachel Cox, *Loveland, OH*
Heather Cromer, *Batavia, OH*
Morgan Cummings, *Norwalk, OH*
Owen Davis, *Norwalk, OH*
Jada Deel, *Willard, OH*
Karli Deel, *Green Springs, OH*
Kendall Dick, *Bellevue, OH*
Danni Dick, *Bellevue, OH*

Gabriel Dolsen, *Norwalk, OH*
Ahmaria Douglas, *Cleveland, OH*
Austin Drown, *Perrysburg, OH*
Ann Marie Edwards, *North Ridgeville, OH*
Jordan Engelhart, *Bellevue, OH*
Emma Farmer, *Avon, OH*
Eian Farrell, *Norwalk, OH*
Elijah Fisher, *Norwalk, OH*
Alexandria Focht, *Milan, OH*
Anaya Foster, *Akron, OH*
Nicole Foster, *Green Springs, OH*
Sarah Francis, *Amherst, OH*
Cameron Frankfather, *Sandusky, OH*
Monet Frye, *Coshocton, OH*
Kinsley Furr, *Kenton, OH*
Scemore Gaines, *Akron, OH*
Nevaeh Garcia, *Toledo, OH*
Grace Gardner, *Sandusky, OH*
Cadence Gargac, *Galloway, OH*
Destyne Garmon, *Cincinnati, OH*
Aubriel Garza, *Clyde, OH*
Jonathan Gebremariam, *Elyria, OH*
Ellyana Gee, *Norwalk, OH*
Jessica Gerhardinger, *Oberlin, OH*
Autumn Gessling, *Milan, OH*
Brooke Gibbons, *Port Clinton, OH*
Savannah Gibson, *New Bloomfield, PA*
Wyatt Gilbert, *Sandusky, OH*
Rebecca Good, *Norwalk, OH*
Ava Grant, *Vermilion, OH*
India Gray, *Bellevue, OH*
Lauryn Green, *Attica, OH*
Stephanie Grenier, *Oak Harbor, OH*
Elizabeth Gresham, *Toledo, OH*
Jayden Gurchik, *South Amherst, OH*
Ava Guzman, *Findlay, OH*
Grace Hall, *Willard, OH*
Graci Halsey, *Trenton, OH*
Rihanna Hamilton, *Toledo, OH*
Evan Hammer, *Findlay, OH*
Zachary Hammersmith, *Bellevue, OH*
Roslyn Hancock, *Amherst, OH*
Avery Hann, *Novelty, OH*
Braylon Harris, *Sandusky, OH*
Mackenzie Heath, *Bellevue, OH*
Elizabeth Herrington, *Sandusky, OH*
Jenna Herzog, *Sandusky, OH*
Lucas Hicks, *Willard, OH*
Joshua Hiser, *Sandusky, OH*
Avery Hoffman, *Sandusky, OH*
Bailey Holmer, *New Washington, OH*
William Horvath, *Toledo, OH*
Parker Houston, *Andover, MA*
Kain Hoyt, *Lksid Marblhd, OH*
Kyle Huckleberry, *Lorain, OH*
Alexa Hurst, *Norwalk, OH*
Michael Ingram, *Sandusky, OH*
Stephanie Jackson, *Solon, OH*

Bryce James, *Sandusky, OH*
Noah Jamison, *Vermilion, OH*
Rebecca Jones, *Sandusky, OH*
Madison Jovanovski, *Lorain, OH*
Abby Juby, *Norwalk, OH*
Madison Keesee, *Sandusky, OH*
Abigail Keller, *Sandusky, OH*
Keira Keoghan, *Milan, OH*
Kailey Kerns, *Sheffield Vlg, OH*
Lillian Kessler, *Huron, OH*
Kathryn Keysor, *Greenwich, OH*
Kelsey Kilgore, *Bellevue, OH*
Elaina King, *Bellevue, OH*
Sahida Koroma, *Pickerington, OH*
Noah Krupp, *Bellevue, OH*
Gabriella Lesch, *Norwalk, OH*
Isabella Lesch, *Sandusky, OH*
Kelsey Limberios, *Norwalk, OH*
Bethany Longer, *Berlin Hts, OH*
Warren Loyer, *Collins, OH*
Abbigail Lyons, *Port Clinton, OH*
Lissa Mallory, *Port Clinton, OH*
Ishara Mason, *Defiance, OH*
Payton Mattern, *Cleveland, OH*
Miracle Maury, *Detroit, MI*
Whitney McCormack, *Greenwich, OH*
Diamond McDonald, *Sandusky, OH*
Hope Mcnea, *N Ridgeville, OH*
Jennifer Miller, *Monroeville, OH*
Connor Miller, *Bellevue, OH*
Emerie Moore, *Avon, OH*
Dominic Myers, *Sandusky, OH*
Dylan Myers, *Sandusky, OH*
Tara Myers, *Bowling Green, OH*
Reed Nash, *Sandusky, OH*
Madison Neill, *Sandusky, OH*
Corey Nickolette, *Avon Lake, OH*
Kayla Nolan, *Norwalk, OH*
Nelia Nolan, *Sandusky, OH*
Janel Norman, *Norwalk, OH*
Steven Oney, *Port Clinton, OH*
Lanee Orzechm, *Huron, OH*
Chasity Page, *Sandusky, OH*
Hannah Pasch, *Huron, OH*
Kaitlin Patrick, *Norwalk, OH*
Kyah Patterson, *Bellevue, OH*
Angelina Paxos, *Canton, OH*
Carmin Pentito, *Amherst, OH*
Hailey Perez, *Fremont, OH*
Loreli Phillips, *Green Springs, OH*
Montana Puckett, *N Fairfield, OH*
Tyson Raymond, *Bellevue, OH*
Alyssa Recker, *Port Clinton, OH*
Messina Reesman, *Bellevue, OH*
Mark Joshua Reyes, *Norwalk, OH*
Grace Ried, *Berlin Hts, OH*
Hannah Ried, *Berlin Hts, OH*
Kaitlyn Robinette, *Huron, OH*

Elaina Roche, *Norwalk, OH*
Savannah Rodgers, *Huron, OH*
Olivia Romes, *Lorain, OH*
Jenna Rosin, *Sandusky, OH*
Jazmine Saucedo, *Norwalk, OH*
Isabella Scally, *Medina, OH*
Katrina Schell, *Sandusky, OH*
Leah Schmittle, *Amherst, OH*
Keegan Schoen, *Sandusky, OH*
Andrea Schwartz, *Huron, OH*
Corey Schwochow, *Clyde, OH*
Kyera Scott, *University Ht, OH*
Mira Sekerak, *Port Clinton, OH*
Abigail Shadle, *Hilliard, OH*
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None of the progress reflected in this report would be possible without the talent, commitment, and care of our faculty and staff. Whether in the classroom, advising office, lab, or community—your work makes a difference. You shape not only minds, but lives. Thank you for helping us rise, together.

Rooted in Leadership

Behind every student achievement, faculty, staff, and community partnership is a team of leaders committed to service, innovation, and care. At BGSU Firelands, we are proud to recognize those who help shape our future each day.

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us rise, *together*.



Our Strategic Plan: Rooted in Community, Rising with Vision

Every highlight in this report
is part of *a bigger story*—

our five-year strategic plan to expand access, strengthen teaching, deepen community impact, and elevate operational excellence. Guided by shared purpose and local partnerships, BGSU Firelands is building a future rooted in community and rising with vision.

Explore the full plan: bgsu.edu/firelands/plan.html



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