2023 Impact Report

The Ohio State University
Mansfield
Dear friends,

Over the last year and a half, I have immersed myself in all things Ohio State Mansfield. From getting to know local superintendents, to working with community organizations, to playing cornhole with students… I have truly been invested in the success of the Mansfield campus. I can now say, without a doubt, Ohio State Mansfield is something special—and I believe that is because of all of you.

Our faculty and staff are relentlessly committed to educational excellence and student success in and out of the classroom. Our students are caring, passionate, and motivated scholars eager to positively impact the world. Our alumni are proud to be Buckeyes, and even prouder to be Buckeyes from Ohio State Mansfield. Our campus community is energized by all the possibilities the Mansfield campus presents for workforce development.

As you know, my time as the Interim Dean will be coming to an end in Summer 2024 when the new Dean and Director begins their tenure. I am eternally grateful for each and every person who has made my time in Mansfield impactful, and I will certainly continue to carry my love for Mansfield with me as I go.

Go Bucks!

Dr. Eric Anderman

The Ohio State University Mansfield Board

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From the Dean’s Office

2.5-mile path through the heart of campus — open to the community to run, walk, or bike.

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Mansfield campus receives Ohio Reach designation

Ohio State Mansfield was recognized for its ongoing support of foster care-connected students by the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE). The Mansfield campus is one of 28 inaugural campuses, technical centers, colleges and universities, to receive the Ohio Reach Postsecondary designation. The university was also recognized.

“The Ohio State University at Mansfield is immensely proud of our commitment to student success, regardless of the journey that has led students to us,” said Interim Dean and Director Eric Anderman. “We are humbled and honored to have been identified for this recognition of our efforts toward supporting foster care-connected students. We will continue to provide resources like the Buckeye Food Pantry, career closet, free tutoring at the Conard Learning Center, learning communities and need-based financial aid awards to all students.”

Ohio Reach, administered through the Ohio Children’s Alliance, provides resources to higher education institutions, child welfare agencies and foster care alumni enrolled in higher education to support their academic success.

“Ohio State is committed to removing barriers to access and creating a welcoming and supportive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially and personally,” said Ohio State Senior Vice Provost for External Engagement Ryan J. Schmiesing. “We are honored to be recognized with this important designation and look forward to expanding focused efforts to help foster care-connected students achieve their educational goals.”

Criteria for receiving the Ohio Reach Postsecondary designation include:

• Naming a designated campus liaison.
• Identifying champions in various campus departments.
• Providing students connections to resources for food, housing and basic needs.
• Offering community-building opportunities for students.
• Targeting outreach to students with efforts made for identification and support.
• Expanding on-campus services.
• Training staff to work with foster care alumni.
• Succession/transition planning.
• Data collection.
• Student mentorship programming.

“Ohio takes pride in offering diverse opportunities when it comes to higher education options, and in making those available to all students,” ODHE Chancellor Randy Gardner said in a press release. “This designation, similar to our Collegiate Purple Star designation for military-connected students, recognizes those colleges, universities, and Ohio Technical Centers that go above and beyond to support those students with foster care connections.”

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RYAN J. SCHMIESING
SENIOR VICE PROVOST FOR EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT

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Students find community at Ohio State Mansfield through study groups, student organizations, and learning communities.
The challenges of life, whether they are socioeconomic, medical, family or other, often create even wider gaps to cross in a student’s journey to pursuing a college degree. Ohio State Mansfield already has programs in place to help students succeed, including the Student Emergency Fund, Buckeye Food Pantry and access to community resources. However, there are special circumstances that require increased assistance.

For instance, in Richland County, only five students per year who age out of the foster care system are provided access to scholarships and federal funding to achieve their educational and professional goals. What happens to all the other children in the foster care system who don’t meet the requirements? They are often adopted by relatives which disqualifies them from receiving the benefits of the foster care system. These students are some of the most vulnerable to experience housing and food insecurity as they become adults.

Over the past year, nearly 39% of college students across the country experienced some form of food or housing insecurity. (Recent study from the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice)

Support Ohio State Mansfield students:

MANSFIELD COMPASSIONATE BUCKS ROOM AND BOARD SCHOLARSHIP
go.osu.edu/CompassionateBUCKS

OHIO STATE MANSFIELD STUDENT EMERGENCY AID FUND
go.osu.edu/MansfieldEmergencyFund

Over the past year, nearly 39% of college students across the country experienced some form of food or housing insecurity.
Richland County Foundation Smart Manufacturing Lab

The Connected Smart Machines (CSM) lab is a facility where engineering technology students learn and practice the principles of continuous improvement (CI) while using Industry 4.0 technologies such as IoT, big data and artificial intelligence to improve processes. CI is a systematic approach to identifying and eliminating waste from processes and systems. It is often used in industry to improve efficiency and quality, but also applied to other industries and areas of life.

The Richland County Foundation is supporting workforce development of high-tech manufacturing needs in the region by investing in the Engineering Technology Program at Ohio State Mansfield. The Richland County Foundation Smart Manufacturing Lab features a CSM Lab equipped with a variety of tools and resources to help students learn about CI, such as lean workstations, kanban boards and value stream maps. Ohio State Mansfield students may also work on real-world CI projects with local companies.

An important part of STEM leadership education, the lab helps students develop skills needed to lead and implement CI initiatives. CI is a key skill for STEM leaders in all industries, as it can improve the efficiency and effectiveness of their teams.

CSMs are equipped with sensors and other devices that allow them to connect to the internet and to other machines. The connectivity allows for data to be collected on their performance and for communication with other machines to optimize their operations.

Engineering technology students will graduate with an unparalleled understanding of CSMs and how to create a more efficient and quality manufacturing process.
We asked Ohio State Mansfield faculty to share what they have been doing in and out of the classroom. Here is what they said:

**Stavros Constantiniou**
I am delighted that I am offering, for the fourth year, Geography 3755: Geography of the European Union and the Challenges of Sustainability as a global education class in Cyprus from May 3 to June 1, 2024. This course carries four credit hours and fulfills a General Education Sustainability Theme requirement for new students (Autumn 2022 and later). This course has been approved as GE Integrative Practice: Education Abroad and Away.
As one of the students who enrolled in 2023 stated, “Get ready for enough experiences for two lifetimes.”

**Joseph Fahey**
I’m excited to develop a new study abroad experience in 2024 — Theatre 2798: One Week of World-Class Theatre at the Stratford and Shaw Festivals in Canada. This four-credit hour course will meet the new General Education Theme: Traditions, Cultures and Transformations and count as credit in the Education Away category. After several weeks of online coursework, I’ll travel with 12-24 students by charter bus from August 6 to August 12 to both festivals and see 10-12 shows, engage in exciting conversations with artists, take backstage tours, and make side trips to cultural and historic attractions, including Niagara Falls.

**Jamison Kantor**
This semester, I’m teaching a new Gen Ed course called “Space and Time Travelers,” where we look at the history and development of time travel through different media. It has a broad sweep: we move from a delightfully bizarre 13th century utopian verse romance called “The Land of Cokayne,” to contemporary film and TV. This week it’s James Cameron’s first big hit The Terminator. Yesterday, one of my students commented that one of the things they enjoyed most about the course was the wild juxtaposition — and surprising coherence — between these different media forms. That’s time travel in a nutshell!

**Gabriel Karms**
Ohio State’s Maple Program notched its fifth year of syrup production and funded six student-based positions in the past year, along with several habitat restoration projects from maple syrup sales. A new General Education Maple course launches in Spring 2024, two multiyear USDA-funded research projects are nearing their final stages, and a new maple pavilion expands our education presence that featured nearly 20 different events in the past 12 months.

**Andrew Kinney**
In my first-year writing course, students used an open-source AI assistant chatbot to remake the 18th century classic Letters from an American Farmer, working collaboratively and in groups on creative visioning, prompt engineering, content revision, and reader response. The resulting text is an epic mashup, comically ridiculous in ways only humans can appreciate.

**Scopas Poggo**
I am currently working on my book manuscript “Voices of War and Peace in the Sudan, 1955-2022: Civilians, Combatants, and Foreign Observers.” I anticipate the completion and publication of my book in spring 2025.

**Heather Tanner**
This year, I released a new book, Lordship and Governance by the Inheriting Countesses of Boulogne 1160-1260 (Arc Humanities Press, 2023). This project was inspired by the thirteenth-century Roman de Silence about a noble heiress, raised as a boy because the bad king Ewan forbade women from inheriting, who became the greatest knight and jongleur in England and France. As I pursued this research, I was fascinated to find that noble men and women used the same means of lordship and governance.

My hope is that this book encourages other medieval scholars to see if similar patterns of lordship and governance emerge in the high and late medieval regions they study. Even more broadly, I hope this work continues the efforts of my colleagues and myself to change the master narrative of medieval political history — where women’s roles are routinely examined, included, and taught as part of power and governance.

**Ernest right, in a computer lab at Ohio State Mansfield with fellow student Zach Carroll (photo: Logan Wallace).**

**SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SUCCESS**

**SET FOR SUCCESS WITH AN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY DEGREE**

By Ross Bischoff

WHEN ZACHARY ERNEST WAS SEARCHING for a way to rise in the manufacturing world, he found it in Ohio State’s new Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program.
The program launched in the fall of 2020 on Ohio State’s regional campuses with the goal of preparing students to excel as business-oriented engineering leaders in the evolving manufacturing industry.

When Ernest graduates from Ohio State Mansfield in May 2024, he’ll do so with a degree in engineering technology. But the hands-on education he’s receiving is already paying off.

Ernest recently spoke to Ohio State Impact about the engineering technology program.

Q: Why did you get involved in engineering technology?

A: I went to school for accounting when I was 18 and it really wasn’t for me. I dropped out and started working full time in 2012 for Covert Manufacturing. But working on the floor as a machinist, I realized this job isn’t going to be here in 20 years. I needed to figure something out.

So I went back to Ohio State, initially just for general education classes. Then, Ohio State Mansfield introduced the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology program and my CEO (at Covert) thought it was a fantastic program so she decided to pay for my school.

At that point in my career, I knew I wanted to follow manufacturing because it was my passion. It was a leap of faith, but it’s definitely worked out for me.
Q: And this program is already helping you?
A: Absolutely. Two years ago, I was promoted into the quality department. About a year ago, we lost one of our engineers and the quality manager said, ‘I don’t want to outsource this job when we’ll have an engineer in a year,’ so they promoted me. That was obviously phenomenal. A lot of what I did at Covert prepared me for that, but so has the engineering technology program. The way I learn and approach new things, I got that from school. Time and resource management, that education has been huge toward learning new things.

Q: What have been the highlights of your experience with BSET?
A: I give it high praise. Working in manufacturing daily, to come into the program and see how this education reflects positions in management is critical. Early in the program, you gain a macro view of engineering, robotics, management, Lean Six processes, PLCs (programmable logic controllers) — that background is invaluable and the big benefit is problem-solving.

Q: Have you found any mentors?
A: Definitely. I’ve found a hands-on network. We spend a lot of time in the labs and they reflect what we learn in the lectures and books. When you can read about a subject and apply it in the lab, it’s a whole new way of learning. For example, I tried to learn circuits out of a book — couldn’t do it. I was so lost. But when you’re in there working, it makes sense.

Q: What is ahead for you?
A: Our senior year focuses a lot on operations management, which I’m really looking forward to. I want to get the economics and management side of things. Those two together can be powerful for me in helping a company succeed.

On top of that, with our capstone projects in the fall we’ll be getting our green belts in Lean Six Sigma certification, which is super beneficial. I’m also entertaining the idea of getting my PMI certificate, which is for project management. Those certifications give you the ability to take on a supervisor role and improve the processes of any facility I’m at.

Q: If you want to get ahead of the curve, this program is for you because manufacturing companies will need people who have a macro idea of many different departments and skills and can problem-solve. That’s what this program does.”

ZACHARY ERNEST
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY STUDENT
AT OHIO STATE MANSFIELD

“...”
Students share how scholarships benefit their Ohio State experience

Joyous White
Social Work

“Receiving the Jordan Scholarship has been a blessing to me. With the funds of this scholarship, I can afford housing closer to campus to attend my classes. White expressed her gratitude for being selected as one of the Jordan Scholarship recipients, which has aided in her college journey. Without the financial burden of paying for college expenses, she is able to focus more on her studies to work towards becoming a social worker. While it’s desire to help people is how she knew that pursuing a degree in social work was the right field for her.

Attending Ohio State Mansfield has allowed White to build connections, which has opened many opportunities for her. After graduation, she plans on attending the Columbus campus to obtain her master’s degree in school counseling to help students thrive in their academic setting.

Devon Reinhart
Business Administration

“Park National is a wonderful organization that I am truly honored to be a scholarship recipient of. These funds have allowed me to stay on track with my dreams of graduating without student loans, allowing me to seek my full potential.”

Devon Reinhart shared that because of the Park National Bank Scholarship he has experienced less financial burden than most students who are pursuing a college degree. Reinhart also expressed gratitude for being selected for a renewable scholarship that allows him to attend college, debt-free.

Reinhart emphasized that Ohio State Mansfield is a blessing for which he is exceptionally grateful.

“The business management program does a wonderful job of producing well-rounded students who understand all the fundamental aspects of business. I hope to use this knowledge throughout my business career to one day lead my own successful company.”

Samantha Fraley
Sociology

“I am grateful for the grants and scholarships I have received for allowing me to not only study abroad but also to graduate debt-free.”

During her time as a CCP student, Samantha Fraley fell in love with the tightly knit nature of the Mansfield campus, giving her the opportunity to meet lifelong friends and foster great relationships with faculty and staff members. For these reasons, Fraley chose to continue her undergraduate education at Ohio State Mansfield following her graduation from Ontario High School in 2022.

The Mansfield Campus continued to provide Fraley with once-in-a-lifetime opportunities, such as participating in the Education Abroad program. As a recipient of the Richland County Alumni Foundation scholarship, Samantha was able to study abroad in Greece with Dr. Steven Joyce.

After graduation this spring, Fraley plans to pursue her master’s degree in UX design, combining her sociology education and passion for marketing.

Mikayla Russ
Education

“This scholarship gave me the academic confidence that showed me that I can really do great things.”

Mikayla Russ shared how receiving the Barb and Hank Huber Scholarship instilled an abundance of confidence and motivation needed to thrive as a college student at Ohio State Mansfield. In addition, this scholarship alleviated the financial burden of student loans, allowing Russ to pay off some debt.

Russ stated she loves everything about the Mansfield campus, including the professors who believe in her, the friendly staff on campus and the welcoming atmosphere. “I might not be in the big city, but I know I am still a Buckeye and I truly feel at home here in Mansfield.”

There are many reasons why Russ chose to pursue an education degree. Growing up and having teachers inspire her to chase greatness, being a part of the TEACH program, working directly with preschoolers, and having supportive people in her life is how she discovered her true passion to teach.