

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2024-2025 SOCHE Excellence Awards Winners Announced

Dayton, Ohio (June 2, 2025) -- The Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education (SOCHE) has announced 50 Excellence Awards recipients from across 18 member institutions for the 2024-2025 school year.

Each school selected one **Faculty Excellence Award** winner based on their institution's criteria, with special consideration of demonstrated excellence in teaching, service, and/or scholarship. Similarly, the schools each chose one **Staff Excellence Award** winner based on their institution's criteria, with special consideration of demonstrated excellence in student success, service, and/or assessment.

Finally, each college or university selected a winner for the **Campus Impact Award**, which is based on institutional selection criteria, with special consideration for performance that made a positive impact on the school or campus, as a whole. This category is open to faculty, staff, or administrators.

SOCHE will honor several award winners each month from June 2025 through April 2026. Faculty and staff winners will be highlighted via SOCHE social media channels and on the [SOCHE Excellence Awards webpage](#). The full list of this year's award winners and their supporting information is available here - <https://www.soche.org/2024-2025-soche-excellence-awards/>

Formed in 1967, Strategic Ohio Council for Higher Education is a consortium of 23 colleges and universities located throughout Ohio. SOCHE is the regional leader for higher collaboration, engaging with colleges, universities, and industry to transform the economy through the education and employment of nearly 200,000 students in southwest Ohio. See more at www.soche.org

2024-2025 SOCHE Excellence Award Recipients (by institution):

AIR FORCE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

- [Angela Hayden](#) | Electronics Technician, AFIT Graduate School of Engineering & Management, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering | Staff Excellence Award
- [Lt. Col. Sean C. McConville](#) | Assistant Professor of Logistics & Supply Chain Management, Department of Operational Sciences | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Lt. Col. Chandra M. Pasillas](#) | Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Science, Department of Engineering Physics | Campus Impact Award

ANTIOCH COLLEGE

- [Zavinie Brooks](#) | Grounds Supervisor/Facilities Coordinator | Staff Excellence Award
- [Anna Chiaretta Lavatelli](#) | Assistant Professor of Media Arts, Academic Affairs - Arts Division | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Queen Meccasia Zabriskie](#) | Associate Professor of Sociology & Performance Studies and Director of the Coretta Scott King Center for Cultural & Intellectual Freedom | Campus Impact Award

CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY

- [Shannon Berkheiser](#) | Title IX Coordinator | Staff Excellence Award
- [Dr. Justin W. Cole](#) | Associate Professor and Department Chair for Pharmacy Practice, School of Pharmacy | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Eric W. Mishne](#) | Assistant Professor of Communication, Director of Forensics, Robert W. Plaster School of Business | Campus Impact Award

CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY

- [Dr. Nanyi Qiang](#) | Associate Professor of Piano, Department of Professional Education & Music | Campus Impact Award
- [Erika Sams](#) | Assistant Director, Academic Planning & Assessment | Staff Excellence Award
- [Dr. Sandi Sumerfield](#) | Associate Professor of Reading & Literacy, Department of Professional Education & Music | Faculty Excellence Award

CINCINNATI STATE TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- [Angelica Kennedy](#) | Executive Assistant to the President & Board of Trustees, President's Office | Staff Excellence Award
- [Audrey Woods](#) | Director of Admissions | Campus Impact Award

CLARK STATE COLLEGE

- [Lynn Geist](#) | Assistant Professor, School of Business & Applied Technology | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Kathy Nelson](#) | Controller, Office of Business Affairs | Staff Excellence Award
- [Nathan Walters](#) | Director of Technology Services, Information Technology | Campus Impact Award

EDISON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- [Dr. Kevin Coghlan](#) | Assistant Professor of Psychology & Sociology, Department of Arts & Sciences | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Paige Kiley](#) | Director of Financial Aid | Campus Impact Award
- [Kimberli Zornes](#) | Dean of Accreditation and Academic Effectiveness, Academic Affairs | Staff Excellence Award

FRANKLIN UNIVERSITY

- [Carly Cecil](#) | Manager, Student Affairs Systems & Operations | Staff Excellence Award

- [Justin Busbey](#) | Executive Director, Implementation & Planning | Campus Impact Award
- [Dr. Tanya Moore](#) | Program Chair, Master of Education & Primary Education | School of Education | Faculty Excellence Award

KETTERING COLLEGE

- [Dr. Paul DeLange](#) | Professor & Department Chair, Science & Mathematics | Campus Impact Award
- [Dr. Elizabeth Golba](#) | Professor of Health Sciences | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Benjamin Hotelling](#) | Associate Dean of Student Success & Dean of Students | Staff Excellence Award

MIAMI UNIVERSITY REGIONALS

- [Amie Earls](#) | Assistant Lecturer, Education and Society | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Dr. Nehad Omara](#) | Adjunct Assistant Professor of Chemistry | Campus Impact Award
- [Julia Pond](#) | Director, Regional Office of Student Activities & Orientation | Staff Excellence Award

SHAWNEE STATE UNIVERSITY

- [Dr. Kimberly Inman](#) | Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs | Campus Impact Award
- [Dr. Rhoni Maxwell-Rader](#) | Professor of Psychology, Department of Social Sciences | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Debra Schwamberger](#) | Procurement Specialist, Purchasing Office | Staff Excellence Award

SINCLAIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- [Dr. Dawn Allen](#) | Assistant Dean, Professor, Director of Agriculture Department | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Sherita Jackson](#) | Senior Academic Advisor, Academic Advising Center | Staff Excellence Award

SOUTHERN STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

- [Nicole Sheppard](#) | Assistant Professor of Education, Division Coordinator for Art, Humanities & Education | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Jessica Steadman](#) | Data & Research Manager, Information Technology | Campus Impact Award
- [Robin Tholen](#) | Executive Assistant to the President, Board of Trustees & the Foundation, Office of the President | Staff Excellence Award

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

- [Dr. Robert John Buckingham](#) | Professor and Graduate Program Director, Department of Mathematical Sciences | Faculty Excellence Award

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON

- [Meredith Hopkins](#) | Director of Communications, School of Engineering | Staff Excellence Award

- [Dr. Joy Kadowaki](#) | Associate Professor of Sociology & Law; Department of Sociology, Anthropology & Social Work | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Dr. Erin O'Mara Kunz](#) | Professor of Psychology | Campus Impact Award

WILMINGTON COLLEGE

- [Briana Clark](#) | Associate Athletic Director, Department of Athletics | Campus Impact Award
- [Dr. Ursula McTaggart](#) | Professor of English | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Zachary Sizemore](#) | Systems Technician II, Information Technology | Staff Excellence Award

WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY

- [Dr. D. Scot Hinson](#) | Professor of English | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Brandee Kern](#) | Director of Donor Experience & Stewardship, Advancement & Alumni Engagement | Staff Excellence Award
- [Lt. Lee McCartney](#) | Director of Campus Safety, University Police Division & Office of Campus Safety | Campus Impact Award

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

- [Jason Bickford](#) | Associate Director, Student Union & Campus Events; Division of Student Affairs | Campus Impact Award
- [Dr. Lee Hannah](#) | Professor of Political Science, School of Social Sciences & International Studies | Faculty Excellence Award
- [Catherine Hernandez Hogan](#) | Senior Director of Latino Affairs and Community Engagement, Division of Inclusive Excellence | Staff Excellence Award