



# THE CLARION



By students, for students

# Graduation Edition

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Department  
Welcomes New Dean**  
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**FREE**

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Ghostly art submission. Keerthana Manchala



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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

**H**ello Tartans, as this semester comes to an end, we wave goodbye to old friends and hello to new beginnings. While excitement is in the air, there is a melancholic feeling that comes to me as I look back on all the wonderful people I have met and that now must leave.

We are pushed to reflect on the outcome of our semester. It is often too easy to eschew the well-wishes and congratulations of our peers for a more cynical disposition.

However, it is vital to recognize the accomplishments of this semester. I believe that while we must always move forward, we will never know how far we have made it without reflection.

For me, this semester has been more challenging than any other so far. This is because my schedule has been very hectic. With a new job and classes that require more focus and devotion than previous ones, I have had to put intense emphasis on time management.

Though I know I did not perform to the best of my abilities for some classes, I still am proud of the end result of this term. I passed all of my classes, my job is going smoothly and here soon, I will finally be free to enjoy this summer with family and friends.

I am sure many can relate to the overwhelming sensation that school brings. Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to interview some students here on campus. When asked about how they balance school with their social life, many said they forgo their social life all together. Through relatable laughter we agreed that sometimes there is simply no other option when one is a full-time

student and also working a job. However when the finish line is still a way off, it is easy to question whether or not this is really worth it. As an unconventional student, having worked for several years before coming back to school, I see friends who did not go to school that make great money with no debt. I see them buy houses and start families, and naturally I question my own choices.

Then comes the bittersweet realization that when I was working and not coming to school, all I did was question those choices. It is too easy to look over the fence at what seems like greener grass. Buyer's remorse is a phenomenon that is all too common, especially when it feels like life is only getting harder and never easier.



**Noah Schlarmann at the 2024-2025 ONMA awards.**  
*Esperance Amuri*

This time around though, I did not jump ship. I stayed and put my nose to the grindstone. I have pushed through the hardships, late night study sessions and early morning exams. I have been rewarded for this work with a new sense of pride and understanding of my direction.

The epiphany that it is specifically these hardships that afford us the ability to have a sense of pride and accomplishment is no longer lost to me. Countless students and friends will be graduating this May.

They have pushed through the most challenging of hardships and now, like me, they will be rewarded with the sweetest of achievements. In their accomplishments I find my own encouragement to keep pushing.



Life will not always be kind, nor should it be. If everything was easy then the value of trying and achieving would be lost entirely.

The old adage that the darkest nights always break and the sun rises again is overused for a reason: It is true.

Full of lessons learned and endless potential, these graduates will pursue dreams, find their place and make their mark on this world. We who remain should wave them goodbye gleefully and continue to dream of the day when it is our turn to cross the stage. Ambition will carry us through the night and success is awaiting us at daybreak.

Congratulations to all the students graduating this May; They leave us a well-set example of how to push, how to struggle through, how to be tenacious and how to succeed. I will gladly follow in their footsteps and enjoy the green grass I find myself in.



## Happy Graduation!

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# Making to the End of the Tunnel

## Graduates Share Plans After Sinclair.

Noah Schlarman, Executive Editor



Photo of Diane Nguyen. Noah Schlarman



Photo of Ethan Rebholz. Noah Schlarman



Photo of Autumn Copeland. Noah Schlarman

**G**raduation is every student's illustrious end goal. From the first day of kindergarten, students are aware that their purpose at school is to

make it to the day when they walk across the stage, adorned in robes and grins. The well-wishes of family and friends and that ever-esteemed diploma occupy their dreams. However, this is not the end. It is merely the beginning of the long, arduous and rewarding road ahead. It is an opportunity to apply all of the hard-fought lessons into the field each individual student pursues.

Graduation will not conclude with a freeze frame of a pumped fist in the air while Simple Minds plays in the background. Movies make it seem like the moment stays but it doesn't, it passes and tomorrow happens.

Bittersweet maybe, but undoubtedly hopeful and exciting. The taste of adventure and possibility is at these students' lips and they shared their thoughts, plans and aspirations for their future.

### Autumn Copeland

This fine arts major who will be transferring to Ohio State University after she completes her final semester here at Sinclair Community College.

Copeland made her way to Sinclair on the intention of saving as much money as possible. She made this financially responsible decision early in her high school career.

"I was in a program for four years throughout high school, the Young Scholars Program, where I received enough money to like for \$1500 a semester for Sinclair tuition.

It was nice to be able to come here and not have to really worry. Plus I got other scholarships outside of that as well to help pay for tuition and art supplies and stuff," Copeland said.

Copeland plans to obtain a bachelor's in fine arts degree with a focus on art and technology. Afterwards she hopes to find a career working in her own studio.

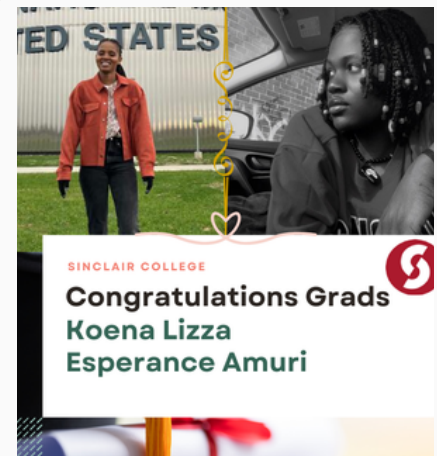
Copeland prefers 2D works and recently tested her will by completing a series of 50 drawings on one subject. Having had all five of her submitted pieces chosen for a student exhibition in Building 13, Copeland elaborated on how recognition boosts confidence.

"It does a little bit, especially since not many people get all of their works in. About 300 people submitted pieces, so there's 300 pieces submitted and only 75 got in... It definitely makes me feel appreciated," Copeland said.

"You put a lot of hours into your work, and sometimes it's rough, and other times it's great. Art is such a variety and you feel a lot of the ups and downs, but it's very nice to be recognized," Copeland said.

### Diane Nguyen

Nguyen also made the fiscally conservative decision to attend Sinclair. Nguyen is taking







**Photo of Mary Zink.** Noah Schlarman

advantage of the UD-Sinclair Academy. After two years at Sinclair she will finish out her bachelor's degree at the University of Dayton.

Like Copeland, Nguyen is also a recipient of the Sinclair Art Department Portfolio Scholarship.

Nguyen prefers to work mainly with oil paint but says she does enjoy working with ceramics too, though its not as easy as TikTok makes it look. Her love for art started taking root when she was young and has blossomed since.

"It's funny, because in my college essays I would always write about how every time I went to Toys R Us that didn't mean anything to me, but my parents would take me to an art store that was always my thing," Nguyen said.

Nguyen says having a gallery would be nice but it seems unrealistic to her. Instead teaching calls to her more than anything, despite what she calls stigmas around art teachers.

"I was inspired to be an art teacher because of my high school art teacher but really I just want to find a nice job. I feel that nowadays being an art teacher and the arts in general are looked down upon. A lot of people want to take the arts out of schools, but I still appreciate the arts, I think a lot of students still do," Nguyen said.

Heritage plays a heavy role in Nguyen's work; she elaborated on how she felt a split in her identity at home with her Vietnamese family and at her predominantly White school. Since graduating high school, she has visited Vietnam every other year; a tradition she plans to continue.

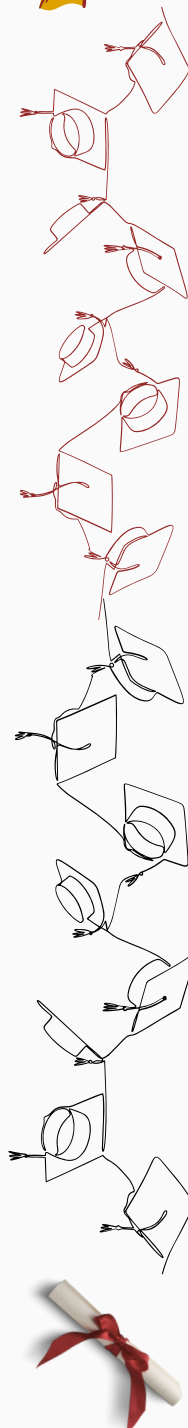
## Mary Zink

Zink may not be an art major, but still utilizes her artistic ability for her communication degree. Primarily interested in marketing, Zink plans to transfer to Mount St. Joseph to continue her passion for design and pursue a double major in communication.

"Specifically I've really gotten into making T shirts and flyers. I'm actually doing something for my church, I'm making what's called Heavenly Hero Saint Trading Cards. I use Canva to make these little trading cards," Zink said.

Zink's faith plays a large role in her goals and aspirations. Being involved in her church allowed her the opportunity to explore her passion for talking to people and forming connections.

When asked what sparked her interest in design Zink said, "I took a digital marketing class, and I had to use Canva to make, like, different ads and



whatnot. And I thought Canva was so cool, and so I started playing on it. And then my family just started asking me to make flyers for something, or just ask me to do little projects. So really, just, kind of just by coincidence, by just playing around on this new software that I found, hey, I really like this."

Being from West Chester, Zink has quite the haul up north. Still, she committed to Sinclair because of her mother's financial prudence and advice.

"During my Junior year of high school, my mom enrolled me in College Credit Plus. So I started taking classes then, and after I graduated high school, I had enough credit hours built up so that I could do the Free to Finish Grant so I could get my associates for free. It just seemed like a very smart choice economically, save a lot of money then transferring. So it really was because Sinclair offered college credits," Zink said.

Zink hopes to take her knowledge and get a job with the Catholic non-profit organization, Dynamic Catholic, where she wants to help them in their mission to make Catholic content that is approachable for everybody. Zink also expresses interest in becoming a teacher in a Catholic school or church.

#### **Ethan Rebholz**

Another fine arts major who focuses primarily on figurative drawings or drawings that pertain to the human anatomy.

Rebholz's passion for art truly began to take form in the seventh grade when he began tracing pictures off the computer. He plans to continue his education at The University of Cincinnati. Though he is still uncertain about what he wants to do long term, he is confident his passion will reveal a path for him.

"I know I'm on the gate right now of finishing, but I still don't know where I want to go with it, in terms of using the degree. I've wanted to do tattoo art possibly, but right now I'll continue

with going on to a bachelor's in arts and then seeing where that goes," Rebholz said. Like every student, Rebholz keeps a very chaotic schedule. In his earnestness, he shared the struggles of balancing a busy school life and a busy social life.

"I feel like I'm very bad about balancing anything with school. It's always last minute or right before the deadline, I'm finally starting to kick in. That's just kind of how I operate.

"It is a little harder with artwork, though, trying to get just the motivation to sit down and actually do it absolutely, especially with some of the mediums, because they're really messy," Rebholz said.

Though each student started their journey at Sinclair for their own unique reasons, they each finish with a shared sense of accomplishment. They have made it to the mountaintop, and now for a brief moment, they can rest on their laurels. These Tartans have set a prime example for every Sinclair student on how to pursue and achieve their dreams.





# Liberal Arts Department Welcomes New Dean

## Myra Bozeman steps up to new role.

By Noah Schlarman, Executive Editor

**R**etirements and promotions have left the dean position for the liberal arts department

at Sinclair Community College in a rather unique predicament. For the last six years the department has seen four deans come and go.

Now the department has been eagerly looking to find someone with longevity to take the wheel. Myra Bozeman stepped up to take on this role, with an extensive background in teaching and administration she brings experience and vigor to her new job.

Bozeman is a native Daytonian and her history with Sinclair actually starts from an incredibly early age. In the 1970s she was one of the first children in the newly introduced daycare program as her mother attended Sinclair. She explains that this is where her passion for academia first took root.

"I was a kid here at Sinclair and my mom was a student, so I was influenced by the college. I would see different things that maybe other kids didn't see...

"The daycare would take us around campus, and we went into an office where there was a big black chair and a desk. All the kids were getting in the chair and spinning around, but I didn't. I just got in the chair and I was sitting really comfortably. And my teacher had said 'oh she's a boss'," Bozeman said.

Originally Bozeman was going to be the first person in her family to graduate college, however during her junior year in college, Bozeman's mother decided that her daughter would not beat her out of college. She then reregistered and came back to Sinclair.

This led to Bozeman and her mother graduating on the same day. Her mother's competitive spirit was passed down to Bozeman and subsequently helped her to continue her education after Sinclair and gain her master's degree at Central Michigan University.

It also inspired an explicit interest in two-generational students, or students who's parents or children are also college graduates.

"It made a difference in our life, and not just our lives, but also my family's life. My aunts and my uncles went back to school. Of course, I have a couple of kids, and they're in college. It just made us go from a family of no college graduates to all college graduates," Bozeman said.

The idea of "two-gen" students has been such a big interest of Bozeman's that along with other colleagues, she has been spearheading a grant for such a situation.

This coincides with her desire to make the Sinclair campus a more family friendly place. To achieve this they have been working on posting signage to reserve parking spaces for expecting mothers toward the front of the parking garage.

They have also been making efforts to put baby changing stations in both women's and men's restrooms, along with other initiatives to create a family friendly environment.

"It's this idea that if your kids are here, they'll see it, then they can experience it. And then with some of the student parents who have children who go to the daycare, they will be doing a garden, and they can take the stuff home with them. So we just try to think of some different things that exposes kids to different faces of college," Bozeman said.

Bozeman was previously the assistant dean and when the former dean accepted a promotion within Sinclair, she decided to throw her name in the hat for consideration.

Though it did take some convincing from her friends and colleagues, and after a fortuitous set of events, Bozeman decided to fully commit to pursuing the position of dean.

Before becoming assistant dean, Bozeman also worked as a professor in communications. She spoke on how teaching has also helped prepare her for the new dean position.

"Being in the classroom helped me in understanding students and what's going on in the community. Which also helps me understand things from a faculty perspective, because you have to understand from that perspective if you're going to be managing faculty..."

"I also thought about what else can I do outside of Sinclair that will give me the experience I need to move ahead. It's important for people to think about things in that manner, because sometimes where you're sitting, you may not be able to get what you really think you need or for whatever direction you want to go in, so you have to kind of look outside of it," Bozeman said.

Community involvement is a key aspect of Bozeman's leadership philosophy. She has served on various boards around the Dayton area such as the Greater Dayton YMCA advisory board, the Central State Communications Association board and most notably the Trotwood-Madison Board of Education where she administered a \$48 million dollar budget while serving on the finance committee.

Bozeman expanded on what community engagement means to her.

"In my last interview for the position, I was told this job needs to be more community focused. President Johnson wants all the deans to be a little bit more community focused. We need to be center focused too, but with an emphasis on community.

"So it ties into what I'm already kind of doing, except I'm going to be participating in organizations that are more liberal arts focused. Like art, music and some things that I've not been engaged in, but that really I need to be engaged in to lead LCS [Liberal arts, Communications, and Social Sciences]," Bozeman said.

With any top leadership position, ensuring the voices of constituents are heard is one of the main priorities. Bozeman has a sharp vision on how to make liberal arts student voices heard.

"Listening circles, one of my goals is to have student listening circles once a month. I am planning to have some be face to face, but I understand it can't always be like that. So then some will also be virtual. But have circles where they tell me what's going on, and then I kind of fish around and try to maybe fix or clarify whatever their concerns are," Bozeman said.

A major concern for liberal arts students, especially in Ohio, is current legislation. Ohio Senate Bill 1 (SB-1) bans DEI divisions and creates other changes to the current education system. This along with President Trump's executive order to dismantle the federal Board of Education has left many students with uneasy apprehensions about their future education.

"It's making us shift in a way that we weren't prepared to shift in. But ultimately, I think we'll be fine. You know, we have a strong president [at Sinclair]. He's really committed to the college and people at the college. We feel very secure in supporting him, and so I do think that we will ultimately be fine, but it's uncomfortable for now," Bozeman said.

Bozeman's goals for the future include an emphasis on democracy, social justice and truth. Something that she believes will need to be figured out as a team.

Her advice to all students is to take things one step at a time and let life happen as it unfolds. While planning ahead is important, it is also equally important to not dwell on the past. The liberal arts department is getting the best of both worlds as Bozeman steps into her new role. She brings fresh blood and invigorated passion while also having years of experience and knowledge to draw upon. LCS can be assured of a confident future under her leadership.



Photo of Dean Mrya Bozeman. Noah Schlarman



# Dayton Braces for NATO

## Preparations for NATO assembly on memorial day weekend.

By Atticus Fries, Copy Editor

**M**ay 21-27, the city of Dayton will be restricted and extra busy due to NATO's Parliamentary Assembly over this year's Memorial Day weekend. Fortunately for many, Montgomery County's Representative Mike Turner made a point to set this meeting during Memorial day weekend, minimizing the hassle that is the traffic surrounding NATO village. While things are still subject to change, Brandon Policicchio with Dayton's local public transportation system, the RTA has said that the RTA will be running its regular services with minor re-routes while the assembly takes place.

This event will be welcoming over 300 parliamentarians of the 32 different countries that make up this organization, including President Donald J. Trump.

Dayton, Ohio is home to human aviation and one of the largest air force bases in the United States of America. Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is also where the Dayton Accords were signed in 1995, ending the Bosnian War. The United States hasn't hosted NATO since 2003, but Mike Turner is glad to welcome delegates to our city while simultaneously celebrating the 30 year anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords.

With the president and delegates from around the world visiting, Dayton is expected to be very busy, and with most political gatherings, protests are to be expected.

Last year's NATO assembly in Montreal became very dangerous quite quickly when rioters threw metal barriers at officers, threw smoke grenades into crowds and set fire to two cars. During the event of a riot, local authorities may step in to disperse a crowd using many tactics that can be dangerous to the human body. The crowd was eventually dispersed with tear gas. While peaceful protests are protected by the constitution, rioting and threatening public safety is not. Here are some ways to stay safe during a protest:

- Bring water and snacks to prevent overheating or passing out
- Bring a first aid kit. Unlike many festivals, protests don't usually have a first aid station
- Avoid wearing things that can be easily snagged in large crowds
- Wear comfortable, closed toe shoes
- Look out for your neighbor



Nato Exclusion Zone [wvxu.org](http://wvxu.org)

A way to help prevent dangerous situations during protests is to research local protesting laws and restrictions. Blocking traffic is usually prohibited, especially without a permit, but parks, sidewalks and other public spaces are where one's rights are strongest. Protesting in plazas of government buildings is also a viable option as long as no one is blocking access to the institution.

As far as Sinclair is concerned, Director of External Affairs Scott Marshall said, "As the City of Dayton prepares to host NATO's Parliamentary Assembly from May 22-26, Sinclair's Dayton campus will remain open and in full swing with our Summer Term classes beginning May 19. It is anticipated, at this time, that this significant international event will have a minimal impact on Sinclair's Dayton campus, which sits outside the designated NATO Village Security Zone. Our administration, as well as the Sinclair Police Dept., will continue to remain in contact with city officials, regarding this event, for any potential updates."



# The Heat is On

## Dayton Dragons Gear Up for 25th Season.

By Casey Brewer, Reporter



**The Dayton Dragons has the longest sold out streak in North American sports.**

**T**he Dayton Dragons are once again bringing the heat this season; The minor league baseball team playing in the MiLB is located in downtown Dayton at the Dayton Air Ballpark.

The Dragons were founded in 1988, but it wasn't until the year 2000 when the team became marked for Dayton's baseball team.

As they enter their 25th season anticipation is in the air as the new season begins.

In 2023, according to MLB, the Dayton Dragons have sold out a record of over 1,500 consecutive home games. The Dragons are known for their fiery game play and affordable prices.

The ballpark has an annual economic impact of \$27.5 million and roughly \$3 billion in development has emerged not just inside the stadium but around the ballpark as well.

The Dragons deal packages for fans and even special "thank you" care packages including passes to exclusive events, commendatory parking and passes to Kings Island.

The local baseball team has a multitude of outstanding players, one of which is Cameron Collier. A Chicago native and a first rounder in the MLB draft. Collier was the 18th pick for the Cincinnati Reds. He is the youngest position player with the Dragons. At only 20 years old he takes on the challenge of playing third base.

Last season Collier hit for a .248 batting average, managing 20 home runs with 427 at bats. Fans are thrilled for Collier's anticipated return.

Another upcoming star, Jay Allen II is a 22-year-old from Fort Pierce, Florida. Allen was drafted in 2021 as another first-round draft pick by the Cincinnati Reds.

Allen is an outfielder switching positions between centerfield, left field and right field. Allen hit a solid batting average of .224 with 10 home runs at 362 at bats.

More exciting news is in store for the Dragons as they recently announced they are being sold to Diamond Baseball Holdings (DBH).

Robert Murphy the team's president will continue administrating the team and the Dragons will officially join the Red's Triple-A affiliate, the Louisville Bats, on the DBH roster.

In 2024, the team shared they would be upgrading the ballpark with a \$20 million dollar budget. The existing stadium roof will now be replaced by Enterprise Roofing of Dayton. Enterprise will be installing a white TPO roof system. The system will arrange a 72-mph wind warranty and 20-year warranty that covers labor and material.

The Dragons plan to expand many other projects, adding a female locker room, the creation of player commissaries, updates to the weight room and installation of high-definition LED outfield light walls with even more projects still in development.

Last season the Dragons won 74 games with a .566 winning percentage. The Dragons had 66 home games and average attendance was over 8,000 fans totaling in the 2024 season attendances over 520,000 people.



**Dayton Dragons Cameron Collier**  
MVP Picture. Dayton Dragons



**Dayton Dragons Stadium.** Specturm News



# College Credit Plus

## Helping students before they hit college.

By Atticus Fries, Copy Editor



Sinclair has agreements with 154 individual high schools across the region with courses running at 72 high schools, 29 high schools with a Transition Advisor and full degrees/certificates pathways offered at 7 high schools. The students graduating represent 31 partner high schools with 20 having courses ran in their building with Sinclair faculty or credentialed high school teachers.

Butler Tech D. Russel Lee has 26 students graduating from the Electromechanical Engineering Technology Program with two also receiving a degree in the Manufacturing Engineering Technology Degree Program.

Miami Valley CTC has 12 students graduating from the Aviation Maintenance Technology and Associate of Science for Transfer degree. Eight students are graduating as home school or virtual school students.

Another eight students are graduating from Clinton Massie High School. Five students are graduating from Beaver Creek High School. Three students are graduating from Miamisburg High School. Two students are graduating from Centerville High School. 25 additional high schools are represented by the remaining 25 graduates.

Five Juniors and 84 Seniors are graduating with an associate degree.

19 different degree programs are represented within the cohort of graduates. Top programs include:

- Electro-Mechanical Engineering Technology
- Aviation Maintenance Technology
- Associate of Arts for Transfer
- Associate of Science for Transfer
- Business Management and Business for Transfer
- Manufacturing Engineering Technology
- Psychology

By completing a degree in high school, these students and families saved over \$938,000 towards the future cost of a college credential.

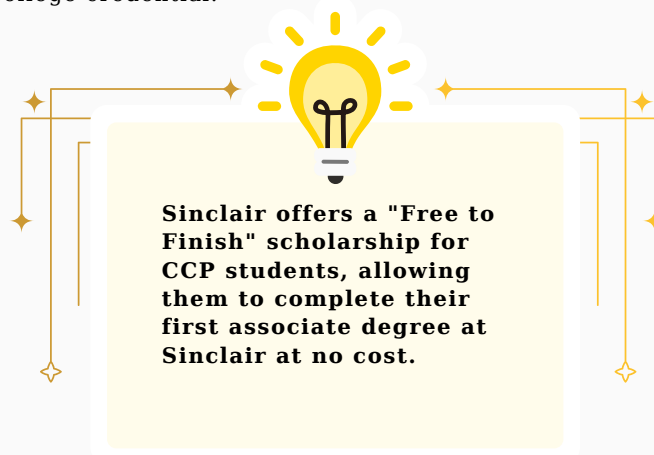
**O**n April 10th, Sinclair will be hosting their annual graduation event to congratulate College Credit Plus students who will be completing their associates degrees during high school this semester.

Over 200 people are expected to attend this event celebrating the 89 Sinclair CCP students that are completing degrees before their high school graduation (as of 3/4/2025).

Of the 89 graduating CCP students, three will be receiving double degrees and one is earning three degrees.

65% of the graduates have a 3.5 GPA or higher with 11 students having a perfect 4.0 GPA.

This is the 10th record breaking year of CCP as Sinclair surpassed an 11,000-student headcount, exceeding 100% growth over 10 years. This celebration represents one of the key strategies of CCP and Sinclair: Helping students gain more education for less money.





# Fun Page



Find the  
answers online  
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## Types of Dog

N	R	S	C	F	F	I	T	S	A	M	O	T	H
H	N	I	O	C	B	U	L	L	D	O	G	T	E
S	R	N	L	H	R	W	E	E	L	G	A	E	B
N	E	A	L	I	P	E	B	G	D	T	I	D	I
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H	I	T	E	U	D	C	E	R	X	P	I	E	M
C	E	A	U	A	P	N	O	O	R	E	D	H	E
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SETTER  
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CHIHUAHUA  
COLLIE  
HOUND  
DACHSHUND

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/9/>

# Sinclair Introduces Blue Envelope Program

**Initiative aims to ease tension between police and neurodivergent individuals.**

By Esperance Amuri, Online Editor

**L**ike its name, Sinclair Community College has shown time and time again how it values community and inclusiveness. Recently, the Tartan

TOPS (Transition Option in Post-Secondary Education) launched a new program called Blue Envelope.

According to Tristan Chaput, the Tartan TOPS program coordinator and faculty member, the Sinclair program specifically supports students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. It provides a pathway to careers or college.

"Historically, higher education has not been accessible to people with disabilities for a variety of reasons. And so, we are here to fill in that gap to make sure that people with intellectual disabilities still have the opportunity to pursue higher education and reach their fullest potential," Chaput said.

The Blue Envelope is a new program that Tartan TOPS introduced not too long ago; Chaput mentioned that they sent personal emails to students and anyone registered with accessibility services at Sinclair to let them know about it.

"It's a national program, and it is literally a blue envelope. It's designed to be a sample advocacy piece for people with disabilities. So oftentimes, when we are in situations where we are interacting with police officers, these are very heightened, stressful situations for any person. But for people with disabilities, it may look differently depending on how their disability manifests," Chaput said

She went on to give an example where she explained that to some disabled people, it can be difficult to process a question they are being asked in a timely manner, which can be misconstrued as choosing not to answer or ignoring the person who is questioning them; however, that is not the case.

"There are ways that we can better support people with disabilities when they are in situations where they may not be able to communicate effectively. So the idea behind this program is that it will help students advocate for themselves. It will also help prepare officers as to how they can create a better interaction," Chaput said.



**Tristan Chaput member of Blue Envelope.** Esperance Amuri

The envelope is intended to hold copies of all the important documents such as the individual's driver's license, student ID or state ID, emergency contact information, and details about their disability. This information helps law enforcement understand how to interact appropriately with the individual.

"This is not a requirement for people with disabilities. This is an empowerment tool that they can choose to use or choose not to use. But then, they will fill out our envelope, as far as, like, in an interaction, what might they be experiencing? How might their disability manifest? And then on the back of the envelope, we have information for officers. So sirens, the radio, the lights, that might cause students to react differently," Chaput said

She mentioned that some individuals might find it hard to make eye contact due to their disability, which can be interpreted differently since human body language can mean various things to different people.

However, this envelope helps to clear these misunderstandings and helps police officers understand the interaction preference of the person they are talking to. This preference can be short and direct sentences, giving extra time for the human being to process a question and respond.

They might need an advocate to help them understand what is going on, and this is what the envelope is for. It also allows those with a disability to know what to do while interacting with the officer.





"And so if there is an interaction where an officer comes up to a student with a disability who has a blue envelope, the student would just say, I have a blue envelope. And they would take it out and provide it to the officer. And hopefully, any information that's needed is in that envelope; then the officer also understands how to create an environment where that person can have the best possible opportunity to be understood," Chaput said

Despite this program being national, Chaput said that Tartan TOPS made sure it was tailored to their students and their needs and used language that they felt was most appropriate for their audience.

Chaput mentioned that many police departments in the area, including Huber Heights and Vandalia, have introduced this program. She has also seen it at several other local agencies, so even those outside Sinclair can get an envelope.

She wants students with disabilities to feel empowered, feel like they can advocate for themselves and be prepared for any situation. Chaput hopes that this tool does that for them and that this program will create opportunities where miscommunication is less likely to happen.

Keep in mind that having this envelope is not a requirement. Yet, it is something worth using as someone with a disability and in need of help when driving or going places that require interactions with law enforcement or people of such position.

Chaput's advice to other institutes considering implementing a similar program is to see if there is a need in the community. The Tartan TOPS found through a survey that there was a need for something like this program.

"So figure out with your folks, is there a need for it? And then making sure that you're really tailoring it to your population and following up and making sure that the intent and the impact match," Chaput said

The Blue Envelope Program is a tool designed to make interactions between individuals with disabilities and law enforcement more effective. It acts as an advocate that protects both the police officer and the human being they are interacting with.



# Improvements To Sinclair

## Sinclair Continues Campus Improvements with Building 8 Plaza Renovations.

By Koena Lizza, Staff Writer



**W**ith any type of construction, the beauty always comes after the rubble. Sinclair Community College is currently undergoing refurbishments in front of Building 8 and the area's pathways have been surrounded by steel barricades, nets and cones as a safety precaution for the activities are underway.

This project, awarded to Browning Chapman LLC, is part of Sinclair's ongoing commitment to campus improvements. Similar projects have been undertaken in other parts of the campus, ensuring that facilities remain modern, safe and functional for students and faculty alike.

"The purpose of the project is to replace the waterproof membrane beneath the concrete on the ground level... The waterproof membrane is important because that is the barrier between the outside weather and the inside of the building," said Rob Hensley, Sinclair's manager of architectural design.

The overall scope of works for the comprehensive project as per the bid advertisement includes:

- **Demolition:** Removal of existing hardscapes, waterproofing, plantings, and soils.
- **Waterproofing:** Installation of a new monolithic membrane system.
- **Plaza Hardscapes:** Installation of new pavers, curbs, and catch basins.
- **Landscaping:** Installation of new soils and plantings.
- **Irrigation:** Installation of a new irrigation system.
- **Electrical:** Necessary electrical repairs.

"We will also be installing some new brick pavers to match the other main plaza over the top of the library," said Hensley.

As a result, pedestrian access to building 8 from the first floor will be closed but the travel paths on the ground level between buildings 4 and 5 and buildings 5 and 6 will not be affected.

The ongoing activities are expected to reach final completion by early to mid-August and with winter over, activities are expected to proceed smoothly with little to no disruptions.

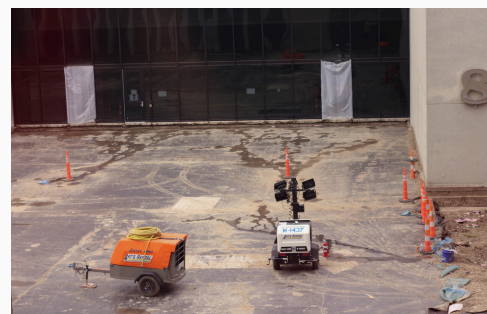
The Facilities Management Department at Sinclair College plays a crucial role in these efforts, dedicated to maintaining the campus's aesthetic and functional standards.

Their mission is to ensure the upkeep of buildings, grounds, utilities, equipment and mechanical and electrical systems in a cost-effective manner. By doing so they provide a safe, healthy and comfortable environment for the entire college community.



Lookout for Building 8 warning signs. Dion Johnson

"We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding with the facilities renovation projects and we do apologize for any inconvenience, but we believe in the end we'll have a good project, a good result and an enhanced plaza," said Hensley.



Outside Building 8 construction work. Dion Johnston

# Savor the Summer

## Daytons festivals and events for every interest.

By Dion Johnson, Multimedia Specialist

**A**s the semester marches forward and temperatures rise, Dayton comes to life with a vast number of festivals, family-friendly activities and outdoor events.

Fans of the arts and fans of good food can rejoice, because now is the perfect time to look into some of the events happening in the city this summer

### Dayton Celtic Festival (July 25-27)

A Dayton tradition since 2002 and brought about by United Irish of Dayton, the Dayton Celtic Festival gives people a chance to both celebrate and learn Irish culture together.

Festivalgoers can learn about the creation and history of Irish bagpipes in their Irish Piping Workshop, attend the Celtic Marketplace that features over 40 vendors, watch the Parade of Kilts or even join themselves if they own one, and plenty more. The United Irish of Dayton welcomes all, regardless of heritage. With an average of over 90,000 attendees every year, the Dayton Celtic Festival is a fun time for all ages.

### Dayton Pride 2025 (June 6-8)

Kicking off on the first weekend of June, join the city in a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community. Live entertainment, food trucks, and a parade can be found Downtown over the course of this event. Those who want to follow the event to its completion can attend PFLAG's "Running With Pride" event at Eastwood Park. Organized by the Greater Dayton LGBT Center, Dayton Pride 2025 is looking to be a celebration of diversity, inclusion and community spirit.

### MJ: The Musical (June 24-29)

Coming to the Schuster Center as part of Dayton Live's 2024-2025 Broadway season, "MJ: The Musical" offers a creative look into the making of Michael Jackson's 1992 "Dangerous World Tour." Since its release, the show has ranked amongst the top five highest grossing annual Broadway shows. Take this opportunity to see one of Broadway's greatest shows from the comfort of your own city.

### Wine Fest (June 14)

For those in the mood to engage their taste buds, Wine Fest will be held at The Greene in Beavercreek, Ohio this year. While tickets must be purchased to test the wine, general admission is free. Those who aren't interested in wine tasting will have access to a Bud Light Beer Garden instead. It's a great chance (for those 21 and up) to try out a variety of wines and have a good time with friends and family.

### Passport to MetroParks (May 30)

Want to know about more summer events that weren't even covered in this article? Passport to MetroParks offers a sneak peek to upcoming festivals and events as well as a chance to meet members of the MetroPark team like rangers and live animal ambassadors. The event also offers live music, food trucks and family-friendly activities.

Each activity that participants complete earns them a stamp in their event passport. Earning one stamp in each of five categories will enter participants into a raffle to win prizes. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Dayton's upcoming events.

Locals and visitors alike, there's something for everyone to enjoy this summer. With sunscreen in hand and surrounded by friends and family, it is the perfect time to make the most of what Dayton has to offer this season!

## Congratulations, Mechanical Engineering Technology Graduates!

*Collin Coyle*

*Alex Delange*

*Taren Fidler*

*Braeden Grissom*

*Colin Kimuli*

*Lane Koehl*

*Theoneste Nshimiyimana*

*Mattis Poulsen*

*Patrick Jewell*

*Jackson Young*

**We wish you the best of luck on your future endeavors!  
-the Mechanical Engineering Technology Department**



# From Book to Buggy:

## The mechanical engineering capstone project.

By Andrew Barnes, Staff Writer

**F**or mechanical engineering technology students, their capstone project is to make an complete and fully functional buggy or off road vehicle. Over the course of their time

here at the Sinclair Mechanical Engineering Program, they learned a multitude of skills which are put to the test in the creation of this buggy. With any project it cannot be done with one person alone. No matter how skilled an individual might be, a project this big would be too overwhelming for just one student, especially not one this complex and multifaceted.

Instead, the students have to rely on each other and trust the value of teamwork. For instance, one student might be more proficient in the modeling side but not have the right understanding of the machining or vice versa.

By joining together as a team, they are able to complete tasks much bigger than they could have as individuals. Colin Kimuli, like every student doing this capstone will be graduating at the end of this semester and intends to pursue a career in engineering and spoke on the importance of collaboration in the field.

"The reason why you need to have a lot of teamwork, you need to have a team while working on the buggy is because you can't have someone who knows everything. You need to have someone who specializes in one thing and someone who specializes in the another thing, which will make your work more efficient," Kimuli said.

Because this buggy tests their skills in a multitude of disciplines and situations, it comes with its fair share of challenges. Manufacturing is a large source of these challenges.

Just because a part works in a 3D modeling program, it doesn't mean it will fit properly when applied to the physical buggy. Making a fully realized part for every iteration would quickly become too expensive to continue development.

The mechanical engineering students have a clever solution to this, making proof-of-concept versions of the parts out of cardboard.

"We can't really cut this out until we have something that's exact, because this is expensive. So we use the cardboard as a blueprint to cut out the sheet metal," Kimuli said.



Students making the Buggy Frame . Noah Schlarman



Students Consulting a 3D model. Noah Schlarman

The professor of the program, Moradmamand Jamshid, is confident that these students can go on to have bright futures in manufacturing and engineering. He believes this because of the unique advantage Sinclair offers that other colleges do not: real-world experience. Other schools focus more on the book and do not teach hands on the way Sinclair does.

The world of manufacturing these students are going into after college is filled with its own concerns and changes. Prime among these concerns for many people is automation and the idea that robots will replace human beings in jobs like manufacturing and other related fields.

"You also have to look at the cost of production. Companies want to have the lowest cost of production. Most would assume it's cheaper to hire a welder than to buy a \$100,000 robot, but its really about the economies of scale, and if the companies can save money then they will choose to do so," Kimuli said.

Kimuli and his fellow students of the Mechanical Engineering Program take pride in their accomplishments on this project.

From here the students will go into the workforce with rounded knowledge, real world experience and an edge in their respective fields.



Photo of Colin Kimuli. Noah Schlarman

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*Class of 2025*



From the Division of Liberal Arts,  
Communication & Social Science



# The Face of Sinclair Leadership

## Getting to Know Sinclair's President Johnson.

By Noah Schlarman, Executive Editor

**A**t any college, students are so caught up in the hustle of school life that they tend to be unaware of the decision makers who run the school. At Sinclair Community.

College, there are approximately 32,000 students across multiple campuses and many students who attend solely online. This means that with such a large and decentralized school population comes even more ambiguity regarding who is at the top. Students may feel their interests and concerns are, therefore, disregarded.

Dr. Steven Johnson, president of Sinclair Community College, took time out of his hectic schedule to discuss how Sinclair focuses on students' collective and individual success.

Johnson was born a 13th-generation farmer. From a young age, he knew that while he loved his heritage and appreciated an honest day's work, he had a higher calling to academia.

Johnson remarked that while he thought he might end up in marketing, he ended up falling in love with colleges and universities and the business therein. He has an expressed interest in ensuring that student voices and opinions are heard.

"We have roughly 300 tenured faculty plus another 100 adjunct faculty hearing student voices daily. There is also a regular survey that we do, and then there is another facet we have. This might sound kind of negative, but it is necessary and serves a good purpose, which is the student complaint system. Additionally is the focus groups that we regularly hold," Johnson said.

For many colleges and universities, students come together under a common identity. This is in part because of school mascots, teams, and prestige. However, at a community college as big and spread out as Sinclair, many students feel that a common identity is not formed.

Johnson spoke on Sinclair's continued efforts to form a common identity for students to rally behind.

"One of the parts of our identity as Tartans is that we don't just exist in a community. We don't just live in this ivory tower. We are part of the fabric in Dayton, and if you're a student here, you cannot escape that. So, that common identity is really about helping each other out.

"Another common identity of Sinclair is that we actually try to be nice, honest, ethical, and decent people. We're all in this together, and things are going pretty well in the Dayton region," Johnson said.

In Johnson's long career, he worked in multiple states for various colleges before finding his home with the Tartans. Johnson has been president of Sinclair for over 20 years and in that time, he has seen drastic changes in education implementation.

Primarily in the digital aspect, technological revolutions have changed how students can learn and obtain higher education. Some students get their degrees having never stepped foot on campus.




Digital media has also changed how students and the wider public consume information. Along with his doctorate and master's degree in business and marketing, Johnson also studied journalism during his undergraduate years.

As a news outlet ran by student journalist, the Clarion has an expressed interest in Johnson's opinions of the changing field of journalism.

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"It's instantaneous. Now there's not a lot of barriers to entry, anyone get into it. You don't have to be working for big printing presses anymore with lots of ink. You can just get on your phone and you can be a journalist, which means that there's a lot of junk out there but there's a lot of good stuff out there too," Johnson said.

Johnsons also stated that with this voluminous age of news and information, media sites are tempted to be biased or baiting for the sake of viewership. He warned against these pitfalls and elaborated that the news has a responsibility to be credible and reliable. When asked about the impact of the Clarion the Dayton community Johnson said,

"It's a great information source, even for me. I learned things about Sinclair, and it's so funny because, I already know, and have a lot to do behind the scenes of this stuff. So I should know more, but it's so great because I learned things I didn't even know about the stuff I helped with."

One of the things Johnson was eager to talk about was the RN to BSN program. A new and exciting addition to Sinclair's repertoire, it is one of the first bachelor programs to be introduced at the school.

Johnson spoke of more forward-facing goals that Sinclair is actively working towards. From bringing in more four-year programs to introducing completely new courses for the varied interests of students.

"We have five [bachelors programs] that are done and four of them already have students enrolled. The fifth will be available for enrollment here shortly. Then there are another couple that are starting through the process in cloud computing and then in applied programming," Johnson said.

Sinclair and its leaders are always looking for new and innovative ways to help students succeed in their endeavors. Attitude reflects leadership and the helpful and encouraging attitudes that show in every Sinclair faculty member begin at the top.

With the various means of outreach that Sinclair does with the student population, success is dependent on the will and ambition of the individual.

It can be hard to realize that these professionals in suits that run the school were once unsure students themselves. Johnson spoke on his trouble with indecision and weather to leave his family farm and what major to pursue. From this he has acquired a wealth of experience and advice to offer students.

"Learn as much as you can about everything. I think reading is really important... and talk to as many people as you can about whatever interests you. Have a continued curiosity and just experience as much as you can. Volunteer work, good work, work with the Clarion, work with student activities, just anything and everything. And keep your eyes open, your ears open, your heart open and your brain open," Johnson said.



Photo of President Johnson and Noah Schlarman. Elshan Huseynzade



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## **Congratulations!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Susan L. Edwards'.

**Susan L. Edwards, Ph.D.**  
President  
Wright State University