

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-25



GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Message from the Executive Director, Andrew Wingard

Dear Friends of Glen Oaks,

As I step into my new role as Executive Director of the Glen Oaks Community College Foundation, these early days have been filled with listening, learning, and observing the heartbeat of this remarkable institution. The halls are bustling, the concourse is full of energy, and the construction taking place across campus is more than progress, it is a promise for our future.

In these first few months, I have been inspired by the stories you helped write. Stories of perseverance. Stories of opportunity. Stories of students whose lives were changed because someone, like you, believed in them.

More students than ever before are choosing Glen Oaks as their college of choice, and we are seeing a significant rise in traditional, full-time students. This momentum does not happen by accident. It is a testament to donors like you, whose generosity continues to elevate the Viking experience for every student who walks through our doors.

Your unwavering commitment to the mission and vision of Glen Oaks empowers us to remain a desired destination for students who are seeking a strong start, a second chance, or a new direction. Your gifts have opened doors through scholarships, removed barriers in moments of hardship, and strengthened programs across academics, student services, and athletics. Every dollar you share affirms your belief in the power of education to transform lives.

As we continue building on this momentum, we lean on the collective strength of our alumni and friends. You are among our strongest ambassadors. When you share our story, introduce someone to Glen Oaks, or encourage a friend to support our students, you multiply our impact in ways that extend far beyond campus.

Together, we can create a flourishing community where opportunity is accessible, potential is nurtured, and every student feels they have the resources they need to pursue their goals.

Thank you for helping us write the next chapter, one filled with hope, progress, and possibility.

With heartfelt gratitude,
Andrew Wingard
Executive Director
Glen Oaks Community College Foundation



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SARAH CROPSEY

Sarah Cropsey always knew she wanted to go into a profession that involved helping people. This spring, she will be able to do just that as she graduates from Glen Oaks Community College with her nursing degree and gets her start at Goshen Hospital as an RN. "I am excited to learn new things and practice the skills I've learned during my time here at Glen Oaks," the Sturgis resident said. "I hope to be a caring nurse that helps people through some of the hardest times in their lives." Initially desiring to be a children's therapist, but dissuaded by the amount of office work, she found inspiration from the nurses who cared for her grandmother following a lung cancer diagnosis. "I saw how they interacted one on one with my grandmother till the end of her life," she said. "They were a true pillar of what helping others looked like. They were really able to build connections with not only my grandmother but our family as well."

Cropsey selected Glen Oaks mainly because she had heard they had a great nursing program, but also because of her financial situation. "I knew I would be paying for school all on my own and only had so much saved up from working throughout high school," she said. "Glen Oaks was a great option because I knew I wouldn't have to pull loans and would be able to work throughout my time here to pay my tuition."

"Glen Oaks was a great option because I knew I wouldn't have to pull loans and would be able to work throughout my time here to pay my tuition." - Cropsey



She also received two Foundation scholarships – the Jessie Alice Ray Scholarship and the Strang Scholarship – which allowed her to focus on her studies rather than coming up with the money to pay for them. Cropsey keeps a busy schedule – two to three exams every week, simulation labs, homework, and clinicals – as well as tutoring first-year nursing students and waitressing.

Her favorite class so far has been mental health nursing, as she has a great interest in learning about how the brain works and has even thought about becoming a psych nurse. However, family nursing is on her docket for this semester, and "I could see this class taking the new favorite spot because I absolutely love working with kids and babies!"

Ultimately, she feels very prepared for her future, which will include taking online courses to receive her Bachelor of Science in Nursing. She also hopes to try out travel nursing and maybe someday become a nurse practitioner. "The classes here at Glen Oaks taught me not only the things I needed to know to be a competent nurse but also how to be caring," she said. "Much of our time we're learning tons of book information, which is of huge importance to give safe patient care and being able to pass the NCLEX. But clinical practice really gave us the time to perform skills and practice how to build relationships with our patients. Our teachers were great examples of the phrase 'practice what you preach' and were great role models into the kind of nurse I would like to become."

JASON CHRISMAN

When Jason Chrisman of Three Rivers decided to go into the field of nursing, Glen Oaks Community College felt like a natural choice. “My grandmother and my mother both graduated from Glen Oaks and it is only seven miles from my house,” he said. “It also felt reassuring to hear all the positive things from nursing staff at our local hospitals.”

In fact, it was his grandmother – a Glen Oaks LPN graduate – who inspired him to pursue nursing. “She always would tell us about how fulfilled she felt being a nurse and caring for people,” he said. But when he took the leap and began his studies, Chrisman – currently a Paramedic for a local health system as a Critical Care transport medic – had to cut his hours at work by more than half.

With his wife and two of his four children also in college, money was tight. He considered sacrificing his dream of becoming a nurse so his wife and children could finish their college education. Because of the Glen Oaks Barrier Relief Grant (Student Emergency Funds), he didn’t have to make that choice. The grant covered the cost of his textbooks. “Receiving this grant was huge in me being able to continue toward my degree,” he said.

For now, he is in his second semester of the program and finishing his prerequisites, which he calls good stepping stones. “I always feel well-informed and extra prepared to advance on to more difficult courses and content,” he said.



**“Receiving this grant was huge in me being able to continue toward my degree.”
- Chrisman**

Of those early classes, he especially enjoys Anatomy and Physiology. “Dr. Ren Hartung does an amazing job educating students on the body systems and how they work in unison,” he said. “The way he presents the material and how he interacts with the students creates such a positive learning environment. Understanding the body has made the application to the nursing curriculum an easier transition.”

After Chrisman graduates in May 2027, he would like to find an RN position locally and gain valuable experience while completing his BSN, with a goal of becoming a travel nurse.

APPRECIATING BOARD LEADERSHIP

Glen Oaks Community College was there for Kelly Bibb when she made a career change in her mid-30s, and for the past eight years, she has returned the favor by serving on its Foundation board.

“We are lucky to have Glen Oaks in our community,” the Sturgis resident said.

The board needed someone with a financial background, and as a financial advisor for Edward Jones, Bibb fit right in.

She helped codify board processes and procedures to simplify activities like onboarding new members, and she served on three committees. As a member of the Finance Committee, she formulated policy to ensure financial compliance and transparency. As a member of the Barriers Committee, she assisted in distributing Foundation funds allocated for students who faced additional challenges such as auto repair, books, daycare, or medical bills. And as a member of the Alumni Committee, she participated in community events to connect with graduates and promote the college.

Bibb, a Viking alumna herself, took classes there not only after she graduated from high school, but also later in life when she wanted a change from working in materials management. She earned her Associate degree in general studies, then went on to Western Michigan University for a degree in teaching science, English, and math ... but while doing her internship, decided the field wasn't for her.

Soon afterwards, Edward Jones recruited her, and her teacher training transferred smoothly to her new role helping clients understand their investments.

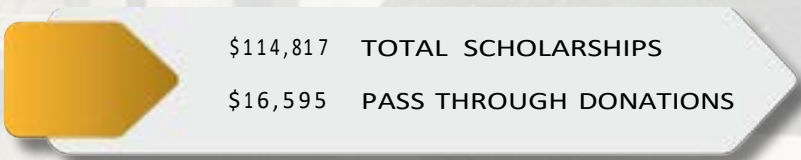
As Bibb leaves the board, she expresses appreciation for her dedicated fellow board members and encourages other members of the community to consider taking a seat on the board. She feels good about the future of the Foundation, especially now that it is partnering with the college in the hiring of new Foundation executive director Andrew Wingard.

“He’s going to be coordinating how best we can work together,” she said. “It’s a huge positive.”



Body

Kelly Bibb, Retiring Foundation Board Member





THANKS TO YOUR BELIEF IN THE VIKING
EXPERIENCE, THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT FOR
GLEN OAKS AND ITS STUDENTS.



Glen Oaks Community College Foundation
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