



**GLEN OAKS**  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# A NEW BEGINNING



2024-2025  
**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## Friends of Glen Oaks Community College —



The 2024–2025 academic year marked my first year serving as President, and I am so appreciative for the support of our Board of Trustees, Glen Oaks Community College employees and students, and the community. This Annual Report

reflects a year of renewal, growth, and strategic direction—one where our collective efforts strengthened both our institution and the community we proudly serve.

Central to our progress was the development of a comprehensive three-year strategic plan, a roadmap that will guide Glen Oaks into a future defined by enrollment growth, student success, workforce development, and community partnerships. This plan was created through broad engagement with faculty, staff, students, and community members, ensuring that the vision for Glen Oaks reflects the priorities of all who depend on its mission.

Workforce development emerged as a defining focus this year. By expanding partnerships with employers and aligning our programs with regional needs, we advanced our role in preparing students for careers that drive local and statewide prosperity. Our Agricultural Technology program, in particular, continues to gain momentum—offering students practical, innovative pathways to meet the demands of a changing economy.

We also invested in the future of our campus. The Southside Renovation has continued the transformation of our facilities, creating modernized spaces that support teaching, learning, and student engagement. At the same time, our commitment to student life was reflected in the remarkable success of our athletic teams and our esports team, which has quickly become a source of pride for our college community.

Safety and security remained a top priority. This year, we enhanced our partnership with law enforcement and introduced new measures to strengthen campus safety, ensuring that Glen Oaks remains a welcoming and secure place for all.

As you read through this report, you will see the collective achievements of our students, faculty, and staff who embody the mission of Glen Oaks. Together, we have laid a foundation for continued growth, innovation, and success.

With gratitude,

**Dr. Bryan Newton**

*President, Glen Oaks Community College*

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GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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# BIGGER, BETTER, AND MORE MODERN FACILITIES

As part of a major \$9.9 million renovation, upgrades to campus athletic facilities include new locker rooms for the volleyball, golf and men's and women's basketball teams. Yet, softball and baseball players – as well as all the non-athletes among the student body – shouldn't feel left out.

An expanded fitness and wellness center with more cardio and weightlifting equipment will benefit them, too.

"Everybody will be affected in a positive way," said Head Baseball Coach Tucker Waddups, who is also the college's fitness and wellness coach. "The facility is going to be bigger and it's going to be more modern.

"It was a good setup before, but now with these improvements, it's going to be as good as it gets."

The athletic updates now underway are just one aspect of a south campus renovation that began last fall and is scheduled to continue into 2026. The construction touches several areas:

- **Allied Health & Nursing:** Former art and design labs transformed into state-of-the-art training spaces.
- **Information Technology:** A new workspace created in the backstage area of the Hagen Theater.
- **Classrooms:** Modernized lighting and finishes in D Wing, 200-level.
- **Ken Shuler Gymnasium:** New



roof, foyer, coaches' offices, locker rooms, and scoreboards.

- **Fitness & Wellness Center:** Adding more squat racks, treadmills, exercise bikes and other equipment

The bigger, better athletic facilities will be huge for all the Vikings sports teams. Previously, the baseball squad would have to use the weight room in shifts, for example, with some student-athletes starting as early as 5 a.m. Now, with more space and equipment, Waddups will be able to get his entire roster in the weight room at the same time.

Likewise, the renovations are making more space for non-athlete students to pursue their own health goals. And college staff will have more room to participate in health and wellness initiatives such as "biggest loser" competitions

and weightlifting challenges.

"I will put together workout plans for students and staff who are interested, similar to how we would with our athletes," Waddups said. "Having more space will allow more non-athletes those opportunities."

The basketball and volleyball teams, which compete in the gymnasium, will have their fall and winter schedules affected by the renovation. Practices and home games are moving to alternate locations.

"These renovations are a major investment in our future, showing our commitment to top-tier educational facilities," said Dr. Bryan Newton, college president. "I am confident these enhancements will enrich our students' learning experiences and help them achieve their career goals." ■

**\$9.9** MILLION

**SOUTH CAMPUS RENOVATION (2024-2026)**



**25%**

**OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS ARE ATHLETES**



**1,000+**

**PART-TIME UNDERGRADUATES SUPPORTED**



# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF GLEN OAKS



As a higher education administrator for more than 20 years, Dr. Bryan Newton could have started his tenure as Glen Oaks Community College's ninth president by using his career experience to shape the school's priorities.

Newton, instead, did the exact opposite when he was hired in 2024.

"The most important thing for me to do was to listen and learn," Newton said. "Glen Oaks is woven into the fabric of this community, and it was critical that I listen to a lot of voices about what the college does well, what it could do better, and how we get everyone on the same page to move forward.

"For that to happen, people have to be involved, feel that they are making a difference, and that the future vision is one that reflects the needs of the students, the faculty and staff, and the community."

That's why Newton launched a strategic planning committee at the start of 2025 to evaluate what Glen Oaks should do to further integrate into the lives of the region, its residents, and its employers.

The idea, Newton said, was to commit to a set of guiding principles that advanced the college's mission and its impact. The risk, however, was not to make the field so wide that it was unattainable.

"A strategic plan is not just some document that you create and put on a shelf," Newton said. "It has to be representative of goals and drive the college forward, but it can't be all-encompassing because then where do you start and how do you measure success?"

"The plan has to be something that can be adjusted based on how the world is changing and what other needs could develop."

The strategic planning committee gathered thoughts from community members, tapped faculty and staff for input, and listened to student feedback in developing the plan that ultimately identified six primary pillars.

The plan's focus includes:

- Increasing enrollment and diversifying programs offered.
- Driving student success and providing opportunities for developing career skills.
- Amplifying the college's workforce development programs.
- Developing fiscal, physical, human, and technological resources that support operational and programmatic excellence.
- Creating community awareness and engagement activities that build connections.
- Generate a vibrant workplace culture to make staff feel valued.

Newton acknowledges that the strategies are common in higher education, but notes that clear direction sets the course for the future.

**“GLEN OAKS IS  
WOVEN INTO THE  
FABRIC OF THIS  
COMMUNITY.”**

“Glen Oaks is an institution that touches everyone in the community,” Newton said. “Our role is to make sure that continues to happen and that we are serving our people and our region.”

Newton's commitment to the process and integrating the community impressed Kari Hatt, the

executive director of the Sturgis Area Chamber of Commerce, who served on the committee at the president's request. Hatt's prior employment was to facilitate strategic planning sessions, giving her keen insight into the development and outcomes.

“Every voice at the table was important, and you could feel the collaboration that was happening to do the best we could,” Hatt said.

“The focus was always about what is the most important thing for the college and how do we go in the right direction without bogging down.”

The initiatives in the plan illustrate Glen Oaks' deep ties and involvement in creating a better future for all, inside and outside the college.

“This plan shows great things are happening at Glen Oaks,” Hatt said. ■



# GOCC BY THE NUMBERS

Glen Oaks Community College continues to evolve as a dynamic institution committed to student success and community impact. Each year, the college welcomes a diverse and growing student body, reflecting both regional educational needs and statewide initiatives aimed at expanding access to higher education. The following statistics offer a snapshot of Glen Oaks' progress—highlighting enrollment trends, graduation outcomes, and the changing demographics that shape its vibrant campus community.

## ENROLLED STUDENTS

**7.84% INCREASE**

FROM 2024-2025



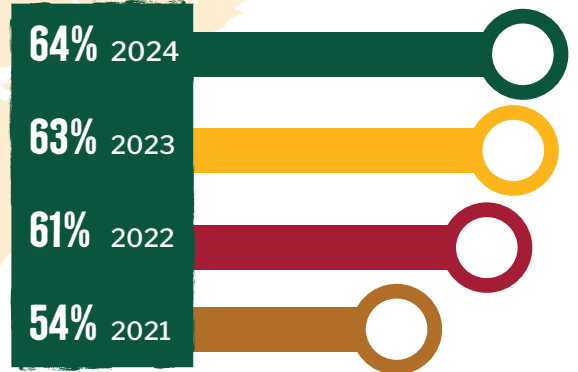
## GRADUATES AT GOCC

**17.8% INCREASE**

IN GRADUATES SINCE 2021

## RETENTION RATES

FULL-TIME STUDENTS

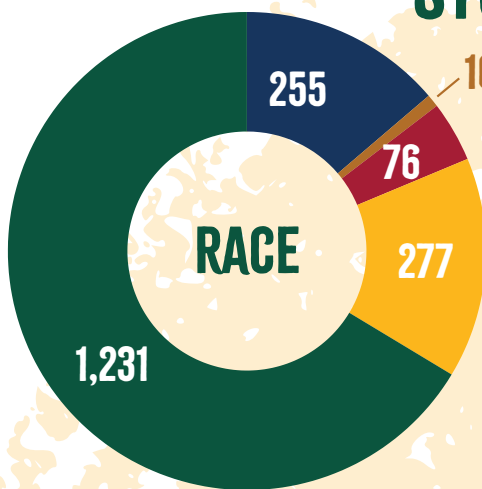


SINCE THE HEIGHT OF THE PANDEMIC, GOCC HAS GROWN FALL-TO-FALL RETENTION RATES OF FULL-TIME STUDENTS BY

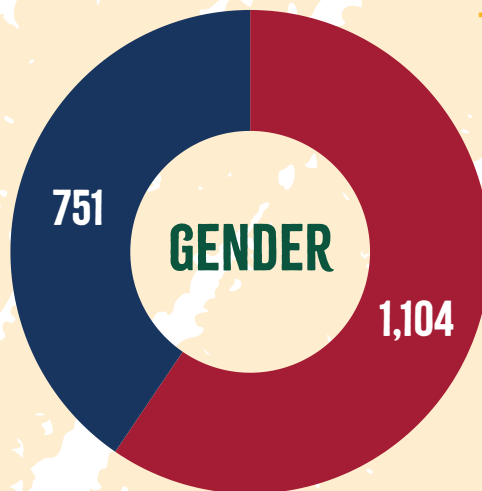
**10 POINTS**

## STUDENT HEADCOUNT DATA

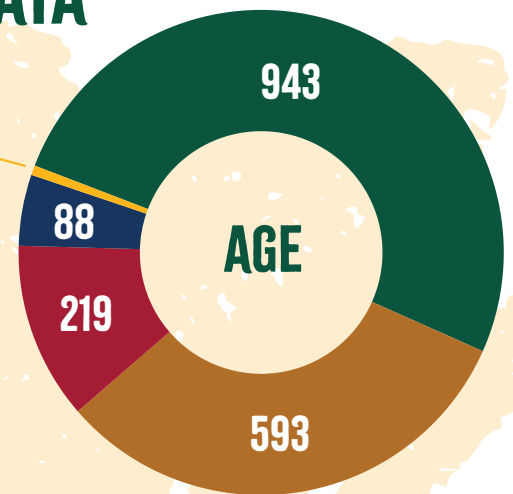
2024-25



- Other
- Asian
- Black / African American
- Hispanic
- White / Caucasian



- Male
- Female



- 18 or under
- 19-25
- 26-40
- 41-55
- 56 and up

## GOCC resources support athletic and academic success

Addison Nally kicked off his shoes, dug his feet into the outfield grass of Glen Oaks Community College's baseball field, and took in the gorgeous spring day that marked the team's final practice session.

Nally, a middle infielder, and his warm-up throwing partner tossed the ball back and forth as they watched pitchers take batting practice, laughing as they struggled to make contact.

It was a simple moment on the baseball field — a facility that helped encourage Nally's enrollment at Glen Oaks — yet an endearing one that he considers a standout memory during his distinguished time as a student-athlete.

Nally, earlier this year, received the President's Academic Award, which recognizes a student's high achievement and excellence in academics and their classroom contributions.

While balancing time between the baseball field and the classroom, he recorded a remarkable 3.938 GPA. Like that moment where he felt the grass between his toes as he interacted with teammates, Nally modestly said the path to achieving the accolade was simple.

"It's just about doing what you're expected to do," he said. "In both baseball and in class, I was making sure the work gets done."

He credits Glen Oaks' comfortable learning environment for helping him handle the workload. He said instructors provided hands-on support, advisors always pointed him in the right direction, and the school offered numerous resources throughout his time.

With his certificate in Electrical Technologies, Nally will continue to ensure the work gets done as he pursues a journeyman's license with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, confident that his time at Glen Oaks prepared him for his future.



**ADDISON NALLY**

**HOMETOWN:**  
**South Bend, IN**

**FIELD OF STUDY:**  
**Electrical Technologies**

**PROFESSIONAL GOAL:**  
**Journeyman's license with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)**

## Relationships connect GOCC training programs to workforce needs

When you see Kristine Stevens, she prefers it's not behind her own desk.

Stevens works best when out in the community, which is a great trait to hold for someone in her field.

Stevens frequently leaves the confines of her desk to network, allowing her to build relationships as Glen Oaks Community College's Director of Workforce Development and Community Education — a role that oversees the school's workforce development initiatives.

"I am not a person who likes to sit at a desk," Stevens said. "I like to be out making connections, working with area businesses and organizations to help upskill their workforce."

An employee of Glen Oaks Community College since September 2022, Stevens works directly with businesses and manufacturers in St. Joseph County and beyond to develop customized training and professional development programs. Stevens has strong ties to professional development, serving 8.5 years in a similar role at Mid Michigan Community College. She's also served as the former president of the Michigan Association of Continuing Education and Training.

It's the kind of experience that's instilled a steady finger on the business world's pulse. Stevens strives to be a trusted advisor for area businesses, communicating with them to identify grant money, ask questions about their pain points, and ultimately unearth the foundation of what a specialized training program could entail.

"If I've done my job and developed a relationship with them, then they freely come to me and I to them," she said. "I'm focused on getting out there and finding out what they need and then trying to put things together."



**KRISTINE STEVENS**

**POSITION:**  
**Director of Workforce Development and Community Education**

# BELONGING, LEADERSHIP, AND RECOGNITION

With diverse interests ranging from nursing to graphic design to marine biology, students in the Glen Oaks chapter of Phi Theta Kappa might never have gotten to know each other if not for their participation in the international honor society.

And they certainly wouldn't have been together at the organization's annual convention last spring in Kansas City, earning national awards for exemplary leadership, scholarship, and service.

Yet, the group of academic high achievers found themselves teaming up to improve their campus and their community – and in the process became PTK's Most Distinguished Chapter in the Michigan Region.

"None of these students would have ever seen each other in classes, and here they all were participating in a shared vision," said Ben Fries, PTK advisor and college director of advising & counseling. "It's just beautiful that they all were able to get together."

## Student Clubs and Campus Life

While PTK may have been the most decorated student club last school year, it's just one of many campus organizations that bring students together for a common cause. Some of the most popular groups are the Computer Gaming Club, the Hispanic Student Alliance (HSA) and the Student Nurse Service Club. In addition to these clubs and organizations, Glen Oaks offers a wide variety of student events.

Each fall, the Oaks Fest welcomes students to campus with activities such as dunk tanks, axe throwing, and inflatable mechanical bull rides.

Then, throughout each semester, the Campus Activity Board (a.k.a. CAB Crew) organizes on-campus perks such as free coffee and hot cocoa bars, as well as off-campus activities including hockey games, spa days, shopping trips and more.

All of it together helps bridge the gap between a student's academic and social life on what is mostly a commuter campus, said Tonya Howden, vice president of student services & Title IX coordinator.

"They build a sense of community, providing spaces for students to build friendships and create a stronger sense of belonging," she said. "Students who are more engaged also tend to be more invested in their college experience, increasing the likelihood of degree completion."

Not only do clubs and activities provide opportunities to connect outside the classroom, but they also help students develop important life skills in leadership, teamwork, public speaking, event planning, budget management, and other areas while promoting civic engagement, too. In many cases, students contribute to positive changes on-campus or in the community.

## Award-Winning Impact

That has been the case for students in the award-winning Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Glen Oaks. Working alongside knowledgeable and dedicated advisors (who received



PTK's 2025 Distinguished Chapter Advisor Team Award in Kansas City), the students had fun together while completing two hugely successful projects:

- **Renewed mental health resources:** Surveyed peers and successfully advocated for renewal of Uwill, a free virtual counseling service.
- **Boosted community engagement:** Promoted the Viking Speaker Series on neurodiversity, drawing participants from several surrounding counties.

Both projects scored extremely high, making Glen Oaks a Top 50 PTK chapter nationally and No. 1 in Michigan – against schools that in some cases have as many as 50,000 students. More than that, the projects gave Glen Oaks students yet another forum to grow and thrive.

"You get out what you put in, and last year's team really put in the time and effort and the research," said Sarah Henry, PTK advisor and college admissions director. "Seeing them when they came in and seeing them when they graduated, they were entirely more confident people." ■

# FROM GAMING CLUB TO NATIONAL CHAMPS



Glen Oaks Community College first plugged into the esports arena in 2022, spawning out of the Computer Gaming Club to compete in the National Junior College Athletics Association Esports (NJCAA).

More than 200 schools nationwide play in the NJCAA, and Glen Oaks represents one of only seven Michigan institutions currently grabbing the controller for collegiate competition.

The NJCAA is the only nonprofit association serving two-year, technical, and community colleges in collegiate esports. The association assists in program development, hosts competitions across a variety of titles, cultivates a culture of inclusivity and more to support an institution's foray into the rapidly growing esports landscape.

Kevin Conner, Professor of Information Technology and Esports Director, recruited students in the gaming club to help power up the official Vikings program as it joined the NJCAA. To spur interest in the team as the start button was pressed on the program, Conner focused on the communal aspects of the gameplay.

"This group of students loves talking games, playing games, and building a community around that," Conner said. "There are a lot of valuable skills to get out of it, like

teamwork, leadership, communication, and problem-solving."

## Early Success and Rapid Growth

The esports community is quickly progressing into the mainstream — its global audience is expected to exceed 640 million in 2025 — and Glen Oaks' early adoption of a program emphasizes the school's innovative culture, where students can develop skills and advance personal and professional livelihoods.

The first esports athletes at Glen Oaks, Thomas Tissue and Donovan Blum, played their inaugural matches in November 2022, competing in Super Smash Brothers to immediate success, with both achieving wins against New York's Onondaga Community College. Both athletes also qualified for the playoffs later that year.

## National Champions in Year Two

Success continued to load quickly, as the Viking players unlocked two national championships in only the team's second year of competition. The Glen Oaks team of Jarrett Miller and Tyler Parker won both the NJCAA Open Series Tier 3 Call of Duty Modern Warfare and the Open Series Tier 3 Call of Duty Gunfight titles in December 2023.

"They really propelled the program," Conner said. "They wanted to compete and get better, and that can be rare to find. When you're on the esports team, it's just like being on the basketball or baseball teams. You've got practice, you've got commitments, and you're training through the offseason."

Students interested in joining the esports program can submit an interest/application form via [glenoaks.edu/esports](http://glenoaks.edu/esports). ■





# AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM CREATES EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES

It's not unusual for community colleges to promote hands-on learning as a critical part of student growth.

Glen Oaks Community College is no different – prospective future farmers or aspiring equipment technicians take note of the wide array of opportunities for instruction the school offers.

“We are a small, but mighty program,” said Sara Birch, Dean of Health Sciences. “Our students have access to top-of-the-line technology, work on our own farm, and gain skills and talent that opens the door for their future.”

“We are so unique in preparing students and tailoring their education for the goals they want to achieve and what the farming community needs.”

## **Hands-On Learning in the Field**

Consider what's available for Agricultural Equipment Technology, Agricultural Operations, and Mechanized Irrigation certifications and degrees that are open to new students and the current workforce:

- Glen Oaks recently became the only Michigan college to gain acceptance to the Community College Alliance

for Agriculture Advancement (C2A3), a nationwide consortium dedicated to strengthening agricultural education, research, and workforce development.

- The ability to work on a newly purchased and installed – by students under the guidance of professionals – center pivot irrigation system that is the gold standard in the industry, providing learning on advanced technology and real-time experience in soil management, crop production, and sustainable water use.
- The pivot system is installed on the college's Nora Hagen Farm, a working 65-acre plot that produces crops while leveraging an immersed exposure to the demands of the field.

Through the C2A3 membership, Glen Oaks has access to national networks, funding opportunities, applied research projects, and student internships that will directly benefit its agricultural programs.

“The Community College Alliance for Agricultural Advancement provides incredible opportunities for collaboration, research, and professional development

that will strengthen our agriculture curriculum and prepare our students for careers in the ever-evolving agricultural industry," said President Dr. Bryan Newton.

Dr. Tracy Kruse, Executive Director of C2A3, explained the impact nationally and to GOCC and the region.

"Collectively, more than 50 institutions will come together over the next four years to transform agriculture technician programs across the country, integrating such things as precision technology, automation and robotics, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence

and geospatial sciences and expanding access," Kruse said.

### Preparing the Next Generation

Birch credited Reid Leaverton, Agricultural Equipment Technology program faculty member, for pushing the agriculture programs to new heights. He was the driving force behind adding a center pivot to the Hagen Farm.

With no pun intended, Birch said there is a root need for the next generation of farmers to know the science behind growing crops, while

at the same time having the ability to install and repair equipment to keep everything humming along.

Leaverton added this upon the installation of the center pivot: "This new equipment will not only support the crops students plant, tend, and harvest but also propel Glen Oaks into exciting new areas of agriculture, research, water ecology, and resource management," he said. "It will serve as the cornerstone of our Agricultural Irrigation program, preparing students for careers in this vital sector." ■



**CHLOE BUTTERS**

**HOMETOWN:**  
**Bronson, MI**

**FIELD OF STUDY:**  
**Business, Accounting**

**PROFESSIONAL GOAL:**  
**Entrepreneur**

## Student Discovers her Potential Through Phi Theta Kappa

At age 19, Chloe Butters owns a photography business, works as a special education paraprofessional in an elementary school, and has apprenticed with a funeral director. She is also the first Glen Oaks student in over a decade to be elected Michigan Regional Officer of Phi Theta Kappa.

"I'm someone with a lot of goals and hopes and dreams," Chloe said. "I like to build my resumé as much as possible."

On paper, Chloe is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business with a minor in accounting through a 3 + 1 transfer agreement with Northwood University. Yet, reading between the lines, her college experience is giving her so much more in terms of personal and professional connections that will last a lifetime.

When Chloe started on-campus coursework last fall, she fell in love with the students, the dedicated faculty, and the community.

"It's the supportive college experience that everyone talks about," Chloe said. "It's a close-knit environment, and it created a strong sense of belonging right from day one."

As if she weren't busy enough, Chloe was encouraged by her academic advisor to participate in the Glen Oaks chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society. She was iffy about the idea at first, not sure how it would fit into her schedule. But she soon decided to give it a shot and quickly learned that the organization's focus on campus and community service was a perfect fit for her gifts and aspirations.

Chloe was part of the award-winning Glen Oaks chapter that earned more than a dozen state and national accolades this past year. To top it all off, Chloe received the rare honor of election to Michigan Regional Officer after three days of campaigning and speeches at the spring convention. She will help plan Phi Theta Kappa conferences and coordinate service projects at a statewide level.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to help others in my community, and now the state," Chloe said. "Leadership is not about being the loudest or the most experienced, but about being willing to grow and care. Through this journey, I've found a wonderful group and discovered how much I'm capable of helping others."

# Demand-driven programs boost students' skills, career potential

In an ever-changing workplace landscape, educators and their students can't afford to stand still without risking falling behind, a fact of life that academic leaders at Glen Oaks embrace as a challenge and an opportunity.

"We've been modifying curriculum to better align with what our transfer and business partners want," said Vice President of Academics Dr. Adam Cloutier. "We're utilizing a needs-based approach, asking them what they need and how we can help customize pathways."

And that means regardless of a student's stage of life – a first-time enrollee, a person changing careers, or a professional seeking development – Glen Oaks positions itself to make a difference.

Workforce Development and Community Education offers various development programs — from customized training, online classes, apprenticeships, and more — across many industries. It can be as simple as a Microsoft Excel training program or a leadership seminar, to something more complex involving hands-on training with industrial manufacturing tools.

The department emphasizes a communal approach in creating these programs by building relationships with area businesses and organizations that impact an individual's professional path.

Kristine Stevens, Director of Workforce Development and Community Education, facilitates the multiple connections in constructing these customized programs and trainings. Both Stevens and Cloutier joined the Glen Oaks staff in 2022, creating a demand-driven vision in formulating

workforce development curriculum.

Stevens regularly networks with organizations in St. Joseph County and beyond, unearthing how Glen Oaks can help both the student and business. She learns a business's goals, how Glen Oaks can upskill its workforce, and then acts as a conduit to potential grant dollars that could jumpstart the creation of a training program.

"We can customize everything to their business, to their industry," Stevens said. "We pull real-life examples from a business and then build a program around it. It's not cookie cutter."

Stevens referenced a popular training program, Blueprint Reading, to exemplify Glen Oaks' tailored approach and its strong relationships among businesses in designing programs.

Glen Oaks uses the actual blueprints that business employees use, signing the necessary non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements before customizing a training program with it.

This connection benefits both the business and the student, as the business obtains support in educating its workforce and the student experiences an education sourced straight from employers.

Once these programs are developed and implemented, they are evaluated and refined to keep pace with shifts in need. That's achieved through Glen Oaks' comprehensive network of staff, faculty, advisory boards and industry partners who collaborate to optimize the curriculum.

"Key individuals help us on a systematic basis to review our programs to see if they still make sense," Cloutier said. "Sometimes they come right out and say the students need more help

with understanding certain critical skills, and we digest that and make tweaks. In other cases, it's a faculty member who recognizes something is out of date and needs adjustment."

Welding, another popular program at Glen Oaks, provides a recent faculty-driven example of Glen Oaks' nimble ability in overhauling instruction. Cloutier said the department received feedback that revealed some deficiencies, which led to quickly bolstering and modifying machine tool programs.

Glen Oaks continually crafts curriculum best positioned in aiding successful career development and accomplishes it across a spectrum of careers and industries. When students enroll at Glen Oaks, the aim is to accumulate skills that propel their career forward.

"We want to set students up for success," Cloutier said. "We want to help them get a job, improve the job they currently have, or help them transfer so they ultimately get the job they want down the road."

Students arrive at Glen Oaks with different goals, but a shared aspiration to maximize their abilities.

Stevens said Consultative Sales, Project Management, Value Stream Mapping, Lean Manufacturing, and CNC Programming represent some of the more popular workforce development programs available at Glen Oaks. While distinct in subject matter, the programs have a common trait to be relevant and interesting.

"It's an engaging, quality education deriving from industry experts who've done this for years and years," Stevens said. ■

**14**  
  
**TRAININGS**

**107**  
  
**AREA EMPLOYEES UPSKILLED**

**\$287K**  
**REVENUE**

## BREAKING BARRIERS:

# FOUNDATION STRETCHES ITS IMPACT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

As a college student, it can seem there is no end to the financial demands of higher education at a time in life when bank account balances can be at their low point.

That's where the Glen Oaks Community College Foundation has made its mark since forming in 1979 by helping students reduce their tuition costs with generous scholarships and now expanding the impact with grants that cover students' last-dollar barriers.

It's a mission and a legacy that GOCC Foundation President Phyllis Youga – an alumna and former adjunct faculty member – doesn't take lightly.

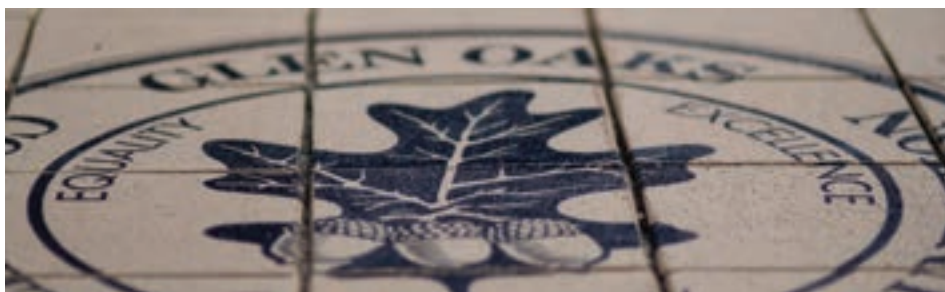
"I've been on that other side where you're stretching every last dollar for school and your living expenses, and you need help to make it work," Youga said. "We're trying to relieve that burden and give students the ability to focus on their success and create opportunities for their future.

"Once students obtain the skills necessary for their careers, you never know where it ends because they can thrive."

The Foundation is shifting toward last-dollar needs based on state funding changes that provide free tuition for many students. It's an exciting change, Youga said, because the grants can be distributed to more people and have a wider impact on the community.

"We're working hand-in-hand with our students, our faculty, and our advisors to make sure that people who have a need are provided for," Youga said. "Our alumni and our community love to pay it forward and help people get ahead."

"It's a gift to have such a strong sense of what is important and how to make a difference for students."



Every dollar counts and the community steps forward annually with contributions to the Foundation, Youga said.

In 2024, the Foundation provided 91 students with \$36,500 in barrier grants, while 67 students received \$85,000 in scholarships.

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***"OUR ALUMNI AND OUR COMMUNITY LOVE TO PAY IT FORWARD AND HELP PEOPLE GET AHEAD."***

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Grants can help with education expenses such as books, lab fees, or testing costs, but they also go toward transportation, housing, and other living costs, such as food insecurity.

The money relieves one of the stressors college students feel, and the learners are grateful upon receiving the assistance.

Emilee Wisk, a second-year nursing student from Constantine, is an

example of that appreciation.

"I would not have been able to attend Glen Oaks if I hadn't gotten scholarships and help paying for books," she said.

Similarly, Jordan Bloom, a first-year student from Reading, found relief with help paying for her books and out-of-pocket expenses, noting her entire Glen Oaks experience has been a positive development for her life.

In addition to helping students, the Foundation strives to improve the college's facilities by supporting capital improvement projects and upgrading furnishings and equipment used by faculty and students.

The Foundation also supports additional learning opportunities, such as funding speakers at college events and helping foster the visiting artists program.

"We have a big heart for Glen Oaks," Youga said. "It's exciting to create opportunities and see the students' hard work pay off." ■



# 2025 GLEN OAKS

# STUDENT AND STAFF RECOGNITIONS

Glen Oaks Community College proudly recognizes the dedication, hard work, and impact of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni through annual awards that celebrate academic achievement, service, and excellence. These honors highlight the individuals who help shape the college community through their leadership, innovation, and commitment to student success.



## PRESIDENT'S AWARD

### Addison Nally

*Nominated by the Glen Oaks faculty, this award recognizes a student for high achievement in academics and excellence, and contributions in the classroom, class work, and the college. Recipients have a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher.*

**Addison Nally**, of South Bend, Indiana, is the recipient of the President's Academic Award, recognizing his academic excellence and contributions in the classroom. Graduating with a certificate in Electrical Technologies and a GPA of 3.938, he balanced his studies with playing middle infield for the Viking baseball team and will soon begin a business internship before entering an electrical apprenticeship with the IBEW.



## OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD

### Christian Monsivaes

*This award recognizes employees of Glen Oaks for outstanding performance and contributions to the college, while taking into consideration accountability, responsiveness, and excellence in their work and embracing innovation, inclusivity, and sustainability.*

**Christian Monsivaes**, IT Support Specialist, is this year's Outstanding Service Award recipient for his exceptional dedication, reliability, and impact across Glen Oaks Community College. Known for his patience, persistence, and professionalism, Christian consistently goes above and beyond to support students, faculty, and staff. His calm presence and commitment to excellence, even in high-pressure situations, make him an invaluable asset to the campus community.



## PART-TIME FACULTY TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD

### Erin Goff

*This award is presented annually to a part-time faculty member or adjunct who demonstrates excellence in teaching and reflects the value of education to students.*

**Erin Goff**, part-time criminal justice instructor, is the recipient of this year's Part-Time Teaching Excellence Award for her engaging instruction and leadership. She has taught a variety of criminal justice courses and contributed to campus safety by helping redesign the Emergency Operations Plan and leading faculty training. Praised by students for her kindness and support, Erin creates a positive and impactful learning environment.



## E. J. SHAHEEN CHAIR FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

### Sara Main

*Established in 1984 through a generous gift from E.J. Shaheen—an original Glen Oaks board member, professor, lawyer, and business owner—the award honors his lifelong dedication to high-quality education and support of institutions like Glen Oaks.*

Sara Main, a member of Glen Oaks’ math faculty, is the recipient of this year’s E. J. Shaheen Award for Teaching Excellence. She returned to Glen Oaks full-time in 2022 after teaching part-time from 1996 to 2008. With degrees from Central Michigan and Western Michigan University, she’s known for designing engaging courses like *MATH 101: Quantitative Reasoning* and for her student-first approach—often bringing in homemade treats to support a positive learning environment.



## DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

### Jakki Bungart-Bibb

*The Distinguished Alumni Award is presented by the Glen Oaks Foundation and recognizes alumni who have made a difference in their communities through demonstrated achievement in their chosen professions or personal service.*

Jakki Bungart-Bibb, a 2004 Glen Oaks graduate, is the 2025 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, recognized for her impactful 28-year career in workforce development. As Director of Operations at the Upjohn Institute and Director for Michigan Works! Southwest, she has helped connect hundreds of students and employers across the region. Known for her leadership and collaboration, she’s received multiple honors and continues to serve her community through various boards and initiatives.



## UP AND COMING DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

### Nathan Denton

*The Up-And-Coming Distinguished Award is a newer Glen Oaks Foundation Award category for alumni who graduated 10 years ago or less who exhibit professionalism, have demonstrated achievement in their chosen careers, and have provided significant service to the community.*

Nathan Denton, a 2019 Glen Oaks graduate, is recognized with the Up & Coming Distinguished Alumni Award for his work in education and information technology. A former non-traditional student, he now teaches IT courses for Indiana Digital Learning School, develops tech curriculum, and serves as an advisor and subject matter expert. He remains active in his community and at Glen Oaks, where he serves as treasurer of the Delta Rho Chapter of Epsilon Pi Tau.



## FELLOWS AWARD

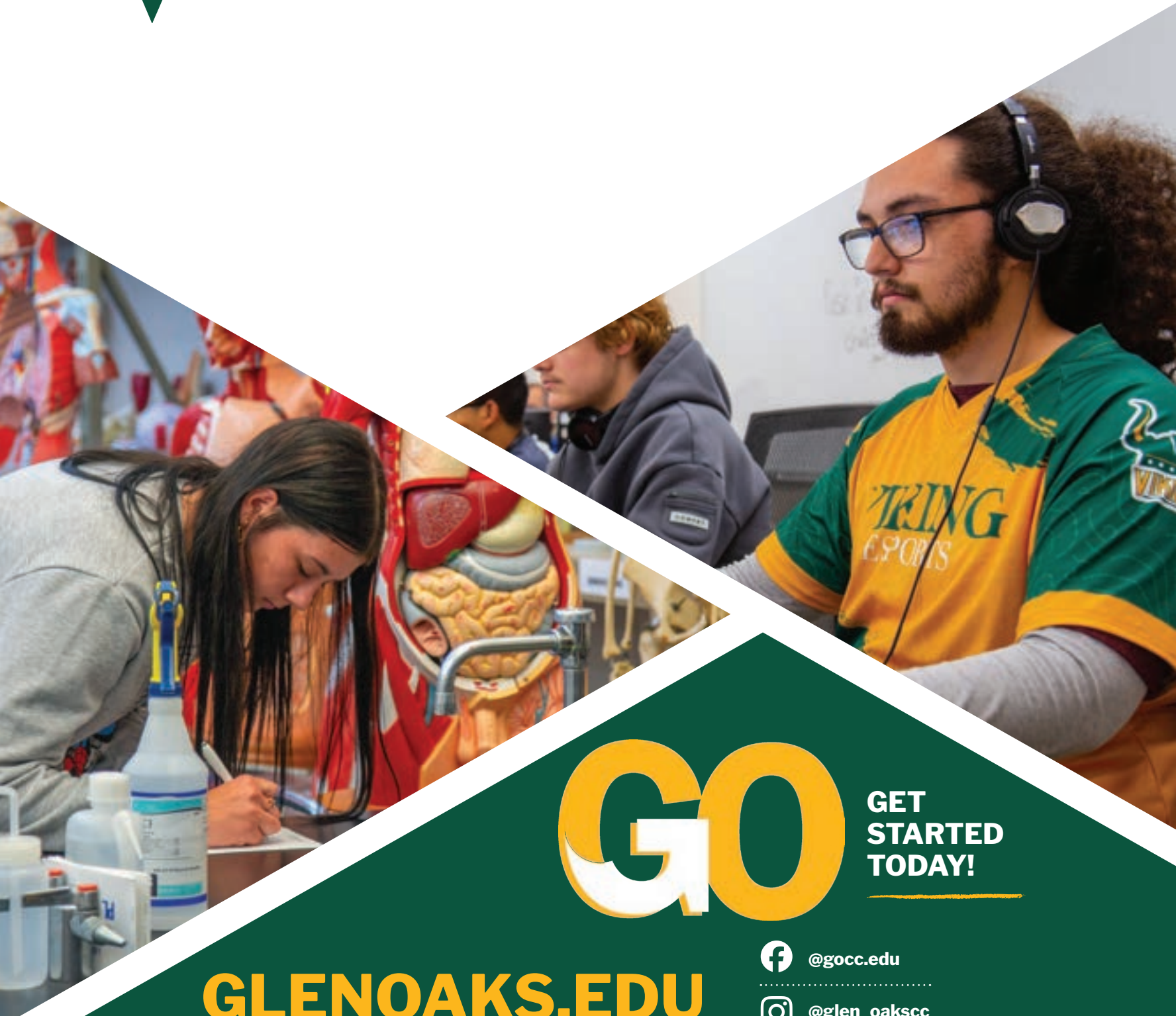
### Nancy Percival

*The Glen Oaks Fellows Award honors individuals or organizations that have shown exceptional support for the college through long-term commitment, community advocacy, or ongoing contributions to the Glen Oaks Foundation or Board of Trustees.*

Nancy Percival is honored with the Glen Oaks Fellows Award for her 12 years of service on the Board of Trustees and decades of advocacy for education and workforce development. A former JTPA Coordinator and proud Glen Oaks parent, she has also served on numerous local boards, making a lasting impact on both the college and her community. Her leadership and dedication continue to inspire support for community colleges and lifelong learning.



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