



The Magazine for
Kettering College Alumni
2023–24 ISSUE

Pacesetter



Founded on a Vision: Upholding that Vision

INSIDE: Disaster Simulations | Culture Lab | Pivoting Careers





President’s Message

As alumni, you know how truly special Kettering College is. Time and time again, faculty, staff, students, and alumni express the same sentiment: “It feels like family.” Just like any family, we have grown, changed, and learned a lot since we began with our groundbreaking in 1966.

That groundbreaking wasn’t just physical—creating a faith-based healthcare college in collaboration with an entire healthcare system was groundbreaking. It was a unique vision our founders followed to deliver education based on whole-patient care that acts as the hands and feet of Jesus. Our continued achievements today are built upon the strong foundation laid by those who came before us.

Like a family, we fondly remember the people who have played an important role in our formation. Their legacy lives on in how we continue to move forward with our mission, vision, and values acting as a compass that keeps us humbly on path to serve God, our students, and our community, both globally and locally.

It is a joy to see the diversity among students who entrust their education to us. Diversity encompasses factors far beyond culture, race, or gender. Our students bless the campus with diverse experiences, backgrounds, beliefs, and points of view. From middle-aged parents pivoting careers to recent high school graduates, our students’ distinguished education is enriched by the diversity they’re surrounded by.

The 2023 - 2024 academic year is a prime example of our innovative spirit to continually strive to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. Our first cohort in the accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing program has graduated and had a 100% first-time pass and job-placement rate. Our newly created Community Health Worker certificate program has produced its first cohort of graduates who are now proudly serving their communities in Dayton to help remove healthcare barriers and improve access to resources.

Our collaboration with Kettering Health remains a vital part of our accomplishments. Together, we share knowledge, ideas, and best practices to ensure our students and Kettering Health’s employees have hands-on learning. Most of our programs report a 100% job-placement rate upon graduation, and over half of these placements are at Kettering Health.

Born out of conversations between Kettering College and Kettering Health, our new Master of Science in Nursing program kicked off this year to best support current nurses who want to expand their careers and roles. The program will help create more leaders in nursing to navigate changes in healthcare and build into the next generation of nurses.

I hope these pages of the *Pacesetter* bring you back to your own special memories of Kettering College. We’ve included more videos in this edition, so please be sure to scan the QR codes to allow the stories to come to life for you.

We’re honored to share these stories with you—they are, after all, your stories as well. Stories you helped craft by



being a part of this family that feels like home. Our students, faculty, and staff know they’re surrounded by others who have their back, and that is something I’m extremely proud of and grateful for. It emulates the same sort of care we want our students to one day deliver to their patients.

In this edition of the *Pacesetter*, we’ve also shared students’ stories who have benefited from the help of alumni who give back and believe in holding up the next generation of healthcare workers. We thank you for your continued support and encouragement of our students. As you’ll soon read, it makes a difference that will ripple into the countless lives of the patients they’ll serve.

We look forward to another year of whatever God has in store for us. We pray for continued guidance, humility, and grit to walk toward progress and innovation, while looking for ways to be servants to serve all God’s children without exception.

From your family here, we thank you for reading the *Pacesetter* and for being a part of our history.

Blessings to you!

Nate Brandstater

Dr. Nate Brandstater, President



Pacesetter

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Disaster Simulation Prepares Nursing Students

We’ve teamed up with an off-campus training facility to offer senior Nursing students an immersive experience to prepare them for emergency situations.

The day of intentional chaos mimics a real-life scenario to sharpen critical thinking skills as they begin their careers.



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Occupational Therapy Students Gain Awareness in Culture Lab

The chair of our Occupational Therapy department introduced knowledge in an innovative way in a culture lab. The hands-on lab helped students consider aspects of cultures they might not yet have been exposed to, so they can deliver culturally responsive and appropriate care to anyone they serve.



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Pivoting Careers to Answer the Call

Kettering College attracts students from all walks of life, confirming a “traditional” student model no longer exists. Michael Collins had a career in the Army when he decided to pursue a nursing career instead. Heather Allyn was a stay-at-home mom who chased her dream to be a respiratory therapist.

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Pacesetter
Public Relations and Marketing Department
Kettering College
3737 Southern Boulevard
Kettering, OH 45429

kc.edu • marketing@kc.edu

Editor-in-Chief: Courtney Dove
Creative Director: Rebecca Ingle
Managing Director: Rebecca Ingle
Editorial Team: Jessica Beans, Courtney Dove, Joel Granados, Rebecca Ingle, Ariana Jervis
Writer: Rebecca Ingle (unless noted otherwise)
Designer: Lance Matthews with Studio Sullivan
Printer: Think Patented
Photography: Joel Granados (unless noted otherwise)
Videographer: Joel Granados

Kettering College, born out of Adventist faith, is a fully accredited college that offers graduate and undergraduate degrees in health science education. Upholding Christ, the college educates students to make service a life calling and to view health as harmony with God in body, mind, and spirit. A division of Kettering Health, Kettering College is located on the Kettering Health Main Campus in a suburb of Dayton, Ohio.



Disaster Simulations Prepare Nursing Students for Emergencies

Disaster simulations mimic realistic emergencies, surrounding participants with situations that test their critical thinking, stress response, and ability to follow protocol to best serve patients. The simulated event has been a long-standing part of Kettering College's Nursing curriculum. It is now being held off-campus in a facility that conducts immersive disaster simulations where students can grow their skills.

Calamityville is a 50-acre training center in Fairborn, Ohio, that is devoted to preparing military and civilian first responders for emergencies. Kettering College's Interprofessional Education (IPE) simulation center team has partnered with them to host our disaster simulations, which offer a full day of immersive, hands-on learning.



Creating Immersive Learning

This year's disaster simulations for senior Nursing students emulated an explosion, followed by a building collapse. The day started by applying moulage to students who were portraying the first round of victims. The moulage indicated injuries such as head trauma, bleeding, and amputations. The levels of severity challenged students to prioritize care and make swift, calm decisions.

Following the loud sound of a mock explosion, students entered the building to find the "victims" and quickly assess their injuries. Phil Smith, IPE simulation center coordinator, is also a paramedic by training and has experienced firsthand the importance of being able to think clearly in an emergency. Phil says, "This gives them exposure to how things operate in a mass casualty when resources are stretched to the limit. It gives them an appreciation for how we have to prioritize patients in an event like this."

Bev McClean, IPE simulation center Nursing coordinator, points out, "The disaster simulations help offer an understanding of what happens in an emergency situation. Although nurses might not be at the scene of a disaster as a first responder, this gives them insight on what happens to a patient before they arrive to a hospital during a disaster."

Deb Warren, Nursing assistant professor, says the event encourages critical thinking skills. She says, "This gives them the confidence to test their knowledge in the real world. It prepares them by giving them a foundation. We can only prepare them for so much, but this gives them an idea of how to think on their feet and prioritize."



Experiences Carryover into Careers

After all students had a turn to be both victims and responders, they gathered for a recap to share what they learned. They agreed the day was stressful, eye-opening, and fun. Student Paris Bauman says, "I learned to have solid communication and the importance of following a chain of command because things get chaotic very quickly if you don't have that in place."

Student Thad Walker admits he wasn't sure what to expect going into the day. He says, "It taught me how to better handle the stress and prepare for it by keeping things under control mentally." Student Gracie Garno says her

main takeaway was that although it feels so chaotic, there is always an order in an emergency situation. She says, "It's vital for the team to assess and figure out who needs to be seen first."

Kettering College's collaboration with Calamityville has created an innovative experience for our students that expands beyond our campus. Partnering with an organization who specializes in emergency simulations has enhanced our curriculum for Nursing students. We look forward to continuing this partnership to best serve our students to prepare them to best serve others.



Scan here to watch a video of the disaster simulation.

FEATURED

- 1 | The exterior of the Calamityville training center for first responders and military.
- 2-9 | Students take turns being victims and responders in the disaster simulation, followed by a debrief of the full day.



Community Health Workers Serving the Underserved

Kettering College received a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to create a Community Health Worker (CHW) certificate program, and two cohorts have successfully completed the program this academic year.

A CHW is an entry-level healthcare worker who assists other healthcare professionals to build trust within the community. They advocate for patients and are part educators, part social workers, and part nursing assistants.

The intent is to have a frontline who create personal connections in the community to make healthcare, social services, and education accessible to avoid future illness. The HRSA has designated Trotwood and Dayton as medically underserved communities, so the CHWs from Kettering College are also from those communities.

Dr. Nate Brandstater, Kettering College president, says, “Kettering College continues to seek ways to transform lives through innovative healthcare education. Our Community Health Worker program will ensure that people in our community get support and assistance they need to get and stay healthy.”

CHW Curriculum

Students from both cohorts attended an intensive 15-week curriculum and clinical experiences around the greater Dayton area. They learned skills such as CPR, how to stop a bleed, and how to take vital signs. Guest speakers presented to the class on the relevance of mental health, communicating effectively, and meeting clients where they are.

The students learned how to care for anyone of any age in any circumstance, remembering the most significant aspect of caring for the client as a unique individual and to develop trust and rapport. The students also learned about resources in Montgomery County that they will encourage clients to utilize. The goal of the CHWs from Kettering College are to be the best advocates for clients to help them become advocates for themselves, their families, and communities.

Treating the Whole Person

Johnjé Jasper, CHW program coordinator, says, “Healthcare addresses only about 20% of a person’s life. Healthcare can treat the sick, but the social and economic environment created by society is what makes people sick.” To treat the whole person and address basic needs, the inaugural CHW class created a resource fair held at a church on the West Side of Dayton.



FEATURED

- 1-3 | Students in the Community Health Worker training certificate program attend Skills Day, where they learned to perform CPR, care for wounds, and take vital signs. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)
- 4-5 | The inaugural CHW cohort attend a popular community resource fair at a church on the West Side of Dayton. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)
- 6-7 | The inaugural cohort of the Community Health Worker program attends their completion ceremony.

The event included health screenings, education, financial literacy, housing resources, and free coats, food, and self-care items. The resource fair was received with such popularity, community members were lined up before the doors opened, and over 200 people were served. This partnership will be an ongoing event for the CHW classes at Kettering College now that great need has been determined.

Serving on Healthcare Frontlines

Our first CHWs are now using the skills they learned in the training program to serve and connect with their communities, friends, and neighbors. Dr. Paula Reams, Nursing chair and director of the CHW program, notes how monumental this accomplishment is. She says, “To have our first graduating classes of the CHW program is such an important milestone. We’re so excited to be able to offer certified CHWs because not all CHWs in the field are certified. This is such a blessing for the people who need this help to navigate the healthcare system, which is so hard to do.”

At one of the completion ceremonies, Johnjé Jasper explained the rigor of the CHW training program. Students met three nights a week for three hours in addition to attending weekly practicums to gain hands-on experience. Some students had full-time day jobs, and others had families they continued to care for.

She said, “While most families were sitting down to dinner, these students were coming to class...Every student has a different story as to how they got here, but they all said they wanted to help their community.” That is exactly what these dedicated community health workers are now doing, and we are grateful for their life-changing work and commitment to serving others.

Founded on a Vision: Upholding that Vision 57 Years Later

In the 1950s Virginia and Eugene Kettering had a vision of creating a healthcare system that embodied Christian values at every level of service. They were so impressed by the exceptional care they received at a Seventh-day Adventist hospital near Chicago that they wanted to create the same atmosphere in the greater Dayton area.

Eugene envisioned a healthcare system with an educational component to continually grow healthcare professionals who are trained in a holistic approach to serve others.

In a *Dayton Daily News* article before the groundbreaking ceremony for Kettering College, he said, “It will be necessary for the hospital to become involved in preparing young people for satisfying lives of service here and in other institutions in various parts of the world.”

An Innovative Healthcare College Begins

Construction for what was originally called Kettering College of Medical Arts began in 1966, and the college officially opened in 1967, offering Nursing, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care, and Housekeeping Management courses of study. The first class graduated in 1969 with 61 Nursing graduates, three Respiratory Care graduates, and two Radiologic Technology graduates.

The first president of the college, Dr. William C. Sandborn, accepted the position but admitted he wasn’t sure what he was getting into since nothing like Kettering College had existed. He said, “This is a new type of college with unlimited possibilities.” Starting a faith-based college in collaboration with a hospital, then-called Kettering Medical Center, was uncharted territory. It was an innovation that has led to expansion and has set an example of what healthcare higher education can look like.

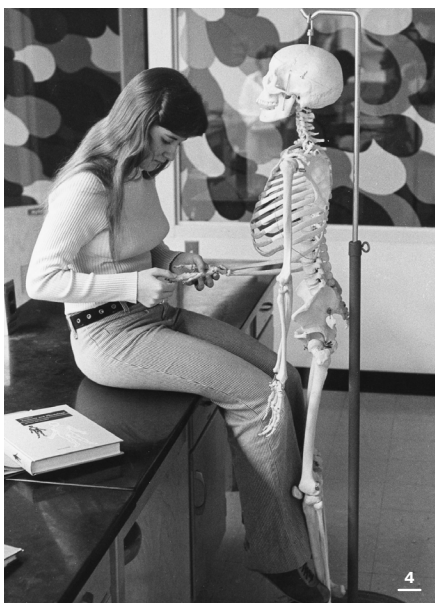
Growing and Adapting

Throughout the decades, the college has responded to medical advancements and changing needs by adding more programs. For example, in 1973, Kettering College was one of the first colleges in the nation to offer a degree program for physician assistants. By 2007, the program was elevated to a master’s degree program—also, one of the first in the nation.

By the 1970s and 1980s, Kettering College had established itself as a distinguished healthcare college, known for its emphasis on whole-patient care education. Throughout the 1990s, as healthcare progressed, so too did Kettering College by adding more programs to meet that need.

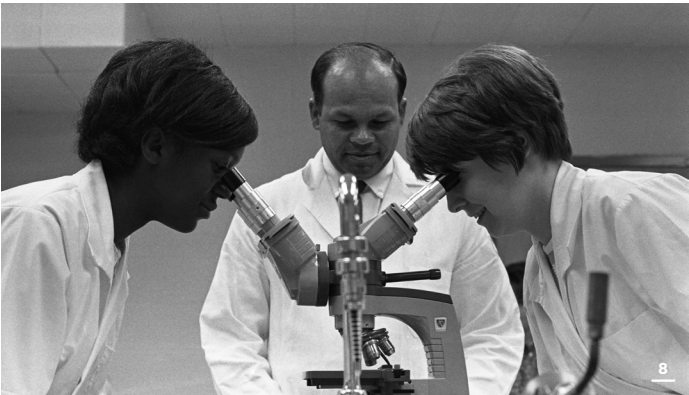
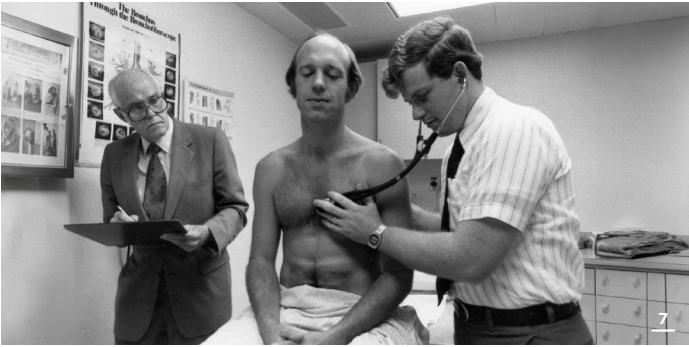
By the year 2000, the college had grown so much that the building was expanded, including more labs, classrooms, and a two-level library. In 2015, Kettering College began offering a doctoral program for occupational therapists after determining this could meet a great need in the community.

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FEATURED

- 1 | A Radiologic Technology student in the early 1980s practices proper technique on his peer.
- 2 | A group of Nursing graduates (circa 1979) pauses to smile before their commencement ceremony.
- 3 | A group of Nursing students in the early 1970s attend a pinning ceremony in their uniforms.
- 4 | A student studies for an anatomy exam using a skeleton (circa early 1980s).
- 5 | Respiratory Care students learn about technology they'll use in the field in the mid-1980s.
- 6 | A Respiratory Care professor lets the students get their hands on equipment in 1968 during a class.
- 7 | A Physician Assistant Studies student (circa 1976) works on another student while a professor takes notes.
- 8 | Students work together in a biology lab in the late 1970s.
- 9 | Groundbreaking in 1966 to build Kettering College, adjacent to what is now Kettering Health Main Campus. (All Photos Courtesy of Kettering Health Archives)



“This is a new type of college with unlimited possibilities.”

— Dr. William C. Sandborn, Kettering College of Medical Arts’ first president

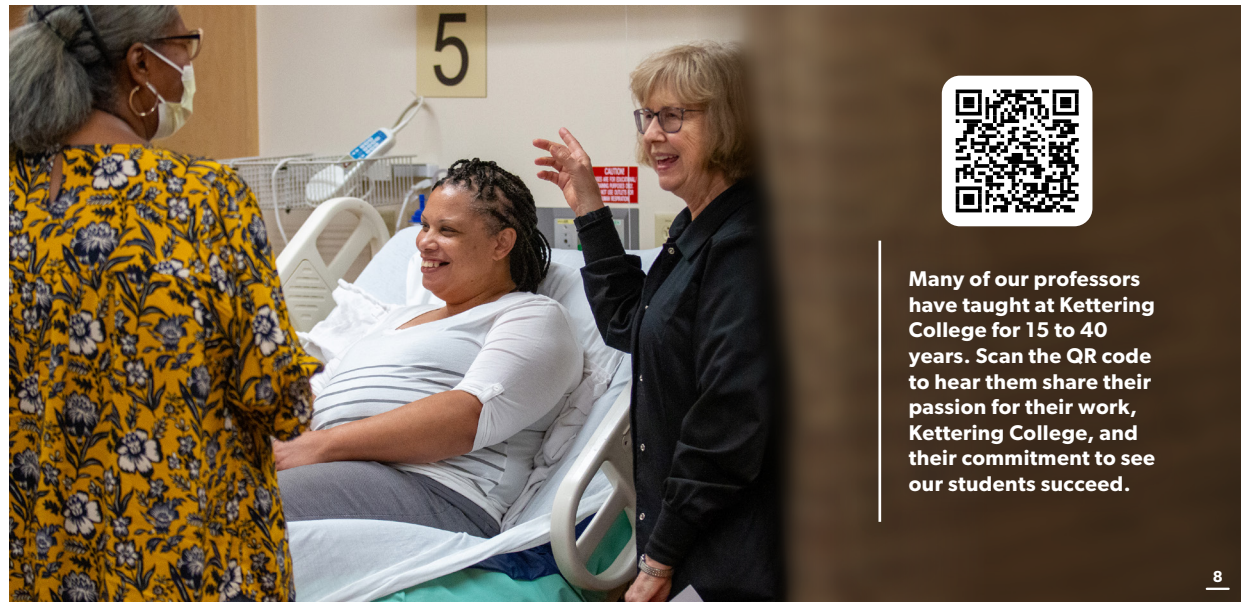


Kettering College Today

As we close out this 57th year since Kettering College’s founding, it’s fitting to take a moment to look back at where we began and how far we’ve come. Our partnership with Kettering Health continues to be a vital relationship. Kettering Health utilizes our state-of-the-art simulation center to continually train their employees, and our students benefit from having access to a variety of clinical rotations. The majority of our programs are proud to share 100% job placement rates upon graduation, and, on average, 70% of our graduates move on to work within Kettering Health specifically. The programs we offer now include:

- **Associate in Radiologic Sciences and Imaging**
 - *Advanced certificate programs in CT, MRI, VIT, or CIT*
- **Bachelor of Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography**
- **Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences**
 - *Online Degree Completion program with concentrations in: Advanced Imaging; Education; Management; Pre-MBA; Pre-MHA; and Respiratory Care*
 - *Healthcare Management, Pre-OT; Pre-PA; Pre-PT; Pre-Med; Pre-Dent; and Pre-Pharm degree options*
- **Bachelor of Science in Nursing**
 - *Online RN-to-BSN track; LPN-to-BSN track; Pre-licensure track; Accelerated BSN track*
- **Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care**
- **Community Health Worker Certificate**
- **Doctorate in Occupational Therapy**
- **Master of Physician Assistant Studies**
- **Master of Science in Nursing – Leadership**

We are grateful to those who came before us and followed their vision of a healthcare college that would focus on the whole individual, putting God at the center of patient care. We appreciate our founders’ focus, ambition, and determination to pioneer a new path. Their foresight and faith have brought us to today. We continue to build upon their vision of serving students who answer the call to become healthcare professionals, and we look forward to what the future holds for Kettering College.



FEATURED

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 A student examines samples in a microbiology lab. | team up with University of Dayton Physical Therapy students for an interprofessional education lab about patient-centered care. |
| 2 Physician Assistant Studies students rush to intubate a mock patient. | 6 Respiratory Care students work together on various respiratory apparatuses. |
| 3 A Radiologic Sciences & Imaging student operates the X-ray machine in a Rad Tech lab. | 7 Senior Sonography students take turns reading ultrasound images. |
| 4 Physician Assistant Studies students learn proper protocol in resuscitating a patient during cardiac arrest. | 8 Students in the inaugural class of Community Health Workers take direction from an instructor in a skills lab. |
| 5 Occupational Therapy students | |



Many of our professors have taught at Kettering College for 15 to 40 years. Scan the QR code to hear them share their passion for their work, Kettering College, and their commitment to see our students succeed.



Occupational Therapy Students Gain Awareness in Culture Lab

Occupational therapists (OTs) help clients return to daily activities they want or need to accomplish to help them feel like themselves again. One crucial way OTs do this is by understanding their clients' cultural needs.

Dr. Shanese Higgins is a professor and the chair of the Occupational Therapy doctoral (OTD) program. She held an in-class culture lab where students had the opportunity to "explore hair texture and hair coverings as an occupation of importance they must address in OT practice to ensure culturally responsive care."



Treating the Whole Person

The classroom was full of a variety of mannikin heads with different hair textures, a male mannikin with a beard, and a mannikin with a hair covering. Dr. Higgins told the class, "When you walk into a hospital room, and you want to work on hair washing, but the client tells you they're not going to do it, it doesn't mean they're being non-compliant. You might not have the products they need or they might not wash their hair as frequently as an OT might assume. This doesn't mean poor hygiene—it means different hair textures and styles require different attention, and today I'm going to introduce you to that."

She showed the class different apparel found in various cultures such as hair bonnets for thick, coily hair and a head covering that people often wear for their religious practices. She reminded students, "We need to know how to do these things to help. The point is for you to get comfortable...Not knowing is not the issue. Not being exposed to the knowledge is the issue."

Students took part in hands-on learning with the mannikins. As they rotated through the stations, Dr. Higgins said, "This is your safe space. Be respectful of the mannikins and pretend they are actual people. Take the time to feel the textures and use the tools as well as tie different head coverings."

She reminded students the information from the lab is meant to grow

an awareness and comfort. She said, "This is all a part of natural grooming, and if our job is to help them get back to a more fulfilling life, we have to do this. We have to do it in a culturally responsive and appropriate way."

Students' feedback confirmed they appreciated this new lab, so when they one day work with a client whose background differs from theirs, they can approach the situation with confidence and understanding.

Putting Clients at the Center of Care

Michael Phillips, a third-year OTD student said, "The lab allowed me to understand a different perspective on how to be client-centered in practice. Not having any past exposure to different textures and head coverings made my viewpoint of the topic very narrow. Since grooming is a part of a person's activities of daily living, this opportunity to learn how different hair requires different approaches broadened my clinical perspective."

Michael added that healthcare providers need to be culturally competent and "Being able to have this newfound skill in our pockets can make all the difference from the viewpoint of a client. The ability to understand and know one additional way to care for future clients will not only build rapport but also show the dedication OTs have to improving our clients' lives."

FEATURED

1-4 | Dr. Shanese Higgins, OTD chair, conducts a culture lab where students learn about diverse hair textures and head coverings they might encounter as they serve clients. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)

FEATURED

1 | Dr. Tuta Ionescu talks about her childhood in Communist Romania and how she came to America for more opportunities.

2 | Students, faculty and staff gather in the Kettering College auditorium for World Diversity Day.

3 | Victor Elkine, Kettering College Nursing student, tells participants about growing up in Israel.

4 | Students, faculty, and staff share a meal and continued the conversation in the auditorium. (Photo Credit: Rebecca Ingle)



World Diversity Day: Sharing Stories and Breaking Bread Together

Kettering College's Collegiate Life committee presented the second annual World Diversity Day. The event was created to celebrate diversity by sharing personal stories that illuminate various lived experiences. The committee's objective was to deepen understanding on campus as well as to offer healthcare students insights to help them compassionately serve all patients.

This year's theme was focused on the journeys of those who immigrated to America from other countries. Students, faculty, and staff filled the auditorium to hear and learn from those who have had to work hard to call America their home in search of better opportunities. Two of the three speakers are a part of Kettering College.

Dr. Tuta Ionescu, Radiologic Sciences & Imaging professor and chair at Kettering College, talked about moving from Communist Romania to America when she was a teenager with her husband. She recalls standing in line for food rations of bread when she was a child.

She admitted, "It's not pleasant to speak about my journey, but if I don't tell you about it, how would you learn?" Learning about each other, she said, is one of the best ways to help each other feel included and welcomed.

Dr. Ionescu came to the States with a hope of a better future but shared that it wasn't easy at first. She said, "I cried a lot. I had such a fear of failing." When she began college in America, she struggled to speak English. She said, "Not speaking English does not mean you don't have intellect." She was getting excellent grades and was grateful some of her professors were able to recognize her potential and believe in her.

She went on to earn several degrees,

including a doctorate, and is proud of the tenacity and determination she put forth to survive and pour into her children, whom she said have been raised learning from her experiences and are all pursuing careers in healthcare as well.

Victor Elkine, a student at Kettering College, shared about his journey of being born and raised in Israel before moving to America to study. Victor's parents were living in Russia when Victor's older sister became ill. Her doctor advised them to seek better medical care in Israel, so their family made the big decision to leave their home country and immigrate to Israel.

Although his father has Jewish ancestry, the family discovered Christianity in a Seventh-day Adventist church in Israel. Victor spoke about the challenges this presented in a Jewish nation, as he tried to blend in with his peers. After serving in the Israeli Army for nearly three years, Victor made his way to the United States, where he is now studying to be a nurse.

Having lived in Israel, he is knowledgeable about the Jewish culture. In his presentation, he educated students on ways to appropriately serve patients who are observing Jewish traditions, such as keeping kosher and observing Shabbat and Passover.

The event ended by enjoying food that represented each speaker's country of origin. Conversations continued over the meal between attendees and presenters. Dr. Tuta Ionescu noted in her presentation one of the best ways to know someone's story is to listen and give that person your time, preferably while sharing a meal, which is precisely what World Diversity Day aimed to accomplish.



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Pivoting Careers to Answer the Call

Kettering College attracts students from all walks of life, confirming a “traditional” student model no longer exists. Our diversity is a constant reminder that education is waiting for anyone at any time.

Students often find their way to us after working in another field and deciding to answer the call to work in healthcare, courageously pivoting in a new direction. Two students who graduated this July who fit this description are Michael Collins and Heather Allyn.

Michael Collins earned his Bachelor of Science in Nursing and admits, “I never expected to be a nurse,” but he is now enjoying what he describes as his “dream job” as a nurse on a cardiac intensive care unit.

Army Veteran Still Serving

Before becoming a nurse, he served in the U.S. Army, a career he assumed he would have for several years but soon felt he wanted a change. He decided to use the funds from his GI Bill to enroll in college after his military service but was unsure of what to study. His dad started a nursing career when Michael was in high school, and Michael saw how rewarding that proved to be for his dad. He says, “I’ve seen it work for him, so I figured I’d try it for myself.”

He began to consider it as a possible career path. He was enrolled in a community college when he heard about Kettering College from someone who graduated from here and said they had an excellent experience. His GI Bill would cover the cost of an associate degree in nursing at a community college or a bachelor’s degree in nursing, so the decision was easy for Michael to transfer to Kettering College. He settled in quickly and enjoyed the small atmosphere.

“My time here has been great. I loved how small the campus is and how everybody knows everybody, and you form bonds,” he says. He adds, “Professors knew me by name, and this encouraged me to do well.”

Support Along the Way

In addition to the small atmosphere, he says Kettering College’s relationship with Kettering Health made getting a job as a nursing assistant during his time here extremely easy, and this opened the door to start getting experience and growing his professional network to easily step into his nursing career.

As Michael balanced attending college with raising a family and working, he admits it wasn’t always easy. He had to stay focused on the prize of graduation and a career he knew he would love. As he faced obstacles, he says he was surrounded by love and support from his peers, faculty, and staff. He says, “This was a nice added touch that I wouldn’t have received on a big campus where people wouldn’t have known me personally.”

As Michael begins his new career, he says, “I enjoy helping people, and I want to give back to the community. I’m excited to now apply my knowledge to a field that helps people.” In a female-majority field,



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Michael is a minority among nurses. To that, he says, “Often men write off nursing as a career for women only, but I wouldn’t want to pass up such a great career because people assume it’s only for women. Having gender diversity on the floors is a great asset.”

Stay-at-Home Mom Forging a New Path

Heather Allyn graduated this July with a Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Care. She is a graduate whose experience demonstrates that life can lead to surprising places when we least expect it. After being a stay-at-home mom for several years and caring for an elderly family member, the thought of returning to college kept playing in her mind.

Heather was diagnosed with a chronic lung disease as a child and was no stranger to respiratory therapists and their work to help her find comfort. During COVID-19, she started thinking about respiratory therapists again since they were at the forefront of delivering relief.

She had never had an interest in pursuing a career in healthcare before then, but the idea to do so was slowly coming into focus, much to her surprise. Caring for her sick family member helped her realize she found it fulfilling to be an advocate and caregiver for someone who needed and appreciated it.

Heather is grateful for her time home with her kids and says she admires any parent who thrives in that atmosphere. She admits she was shocked to find herself craving work outside the home. She says, “When I was a stay-at-home mom, I started longing for another aspect of my brain to be engaged. I found myself online looking at things like string theory and astrophysics and realized I needed to get back to school.”



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FEATURED

1 | Heather Allyn shares a hug with a professor after the commencement ceremony.

2 | Michael Collins receives his diploma from President Brandstater.

3-4 | Michael works in the Nursing simulation lab to take a “patient’s” vital signs.

5-6 | Heather intubates a “patient” in the respiratory lab with her peers.

Next Steps to Success

When her youngest child began kindergarten, Heather enrolled at Kettering College. She says, “My daughter went to school, and then Mommy went to school.” She chose Kettering College because we offer a bachelor’s degree in respiratory care and she wanted to be set apart from those earning an associate degree, which is most commonly offered.

Heather also appreciated the size of Kettering College. She says, “I had not been in school for 15 years, and I was scared to go back. I wanted a small school because it’s hard to get your needs met when you’re just a student number. Being a middle-aged mom of two and being married for a long time, I knew I needed individual attention. I wouldn’t have thrived like I have if I had gone to a large college.”

Heather excelled in her studies so well that she became a tutor in the Student Success Center. She received an academic scholarship for her work ethic and heart of service and had a job lined up before she graduated.

She is excited about growing in her career during a time when respiratory therapists are in high demand in a variety of jobs. Although she has had several interactions with respiratory therapists in her own life, she didn’t realize the wide range of jobs available in this vocation until she enrolled at Kettering College, a step in her life she could not have predicted years ago.

A New Future

Today Michael and Heather have arrived at the next turning point in their lives—completing college and embarking on healthcare careers after changing the direction of their lives. From serving our country to wondering what would be next, we’re grateful Michael Collins chose Kettering College to pivot his career. The devotion, focus, and discipline he brought to the Army are the same skills he now uses as a nurse.

Heather Allyn has shown her peers, professors, and family that we can become students and change course at any moment in our lives. From being a stay-at-home mom who was nervous to return to college to now graduating at the top of her class and succeeding in a new career, Heather has led the way, exhibiting it’s never too late to answer the call, even when it was the last thing you expected to hear in your life.

Congratulations to Michael and Heather and to all of this year’s graduates who are faithfully stepping forward to serve. We are honored they chose Kettering College to start the next chapter in their lives.

Making Education Accessible to All

Our students hail from all around the United States and the world. Our residence hall houses students from 14 states and 17 countries that span the globe. They attend Kettering College with a variety of life experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds, yet they have a shared vision of completing college to become healthcare professionals.

No matter where students call home or what their circumstances are, we want to make healthcare higher education more accessible to anyone who wants to pursue it. Scholarships sponsored by donors are a way to establish this, and we're grateful for the opportunity to extend assistance to many of our students.

We currently have over 50 scholarships created by alumni and friends of the college to help support students working toward a healthcare career. Tina Howard, Kettering Health Foundation giving officer for Kettering College, says, "Currently nearly 68% of our students receive financial aid, highlighting the critical need for scholarships. Scholarships help reduce the financial burden on our students and their families, making higher education more accessible and affordable, and ultimately helping them succeed academically and professionally."



She continues, "The scholarship has been so helpful on the academic journey. It has given me the chance to pour all my focus into my studies and prepare for graduate school and save money for that next step." She plans to continue at Kettering College to pursue her master's degree in Physician Assistant Studies.

Madison has a heart for orthopedics and hopes to work in an operating room. She continues to hold her small hometown close to her heart and wants to give back to that community. "It's an isolated area that doesn't have many medical or healthcare options. To come from that and to know I can one day help people in towns like that is exciting. I want to give back," she says.

Both Krish Ramirez Torres and Madison McMath have met their scholarship donors and thanked them in person. They keep in touch and tell them updates of what they're learning. Both students are deeply grateful for the gift of making education more accessible to them. It's a gift they don't take lightly and will undoubtedly pay it forward as they serve others.



Pursuing a Dream in a New Country

Krish Ramirez Torres is a student in the Health Sciences program in the pre-Physician Assistant Studies track. She is a recipient of a scholarship a donor created for high-performing students who are active on campus and demonstrate a financial need. She says the financial assistance she receives helps her stay focused on her success.

She was born and raised in Costa Rica and didn't foresee attending college in the States, but when she visited Kettering College, our small, faith-based campus made her feel at home. She says, "The moment I walked in, I knew this was it." Her mother, father, and brother uprooted their lives in Costa Rica to support Krish in her dream of becoming a physician assistant.

Krish says moving to America and receiving this scholarship has been incredible. Her parents own their own business here, and she says, "Starting a new business in a new country is difficult, and the scholarship has relieved some pressure from them. I feel like I'm helping out, and I feel blessed to be able to help them. They gave up everything to follow me to the States."

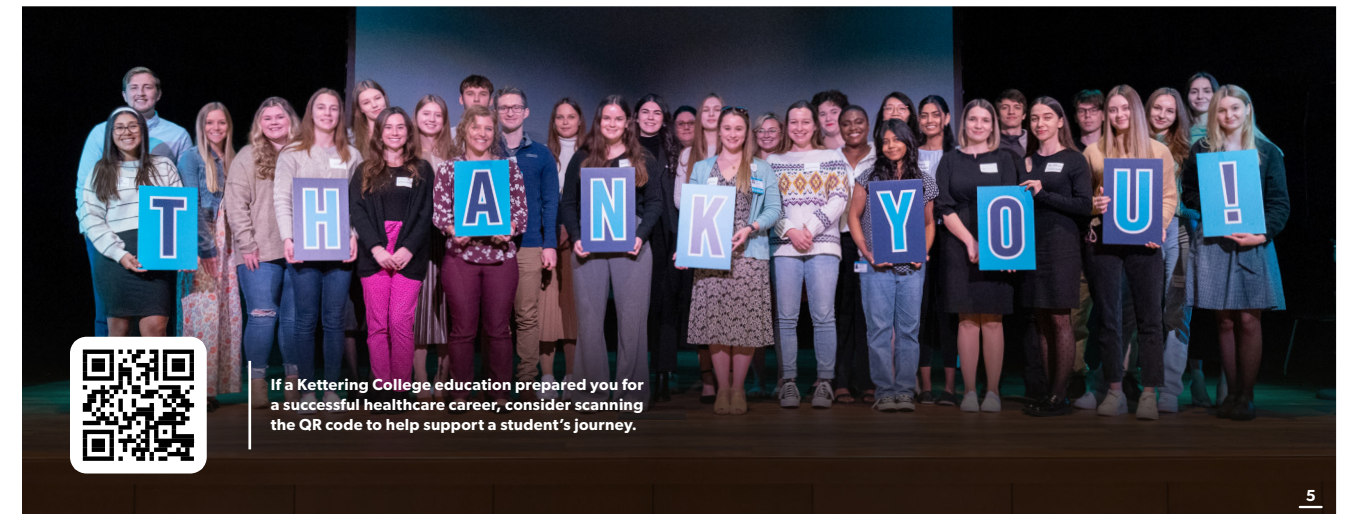
She notes how touching it is to receive financial assistance from donors who know the value of the education she's receiving at Kettering College. She says, "It's an immense boost emotionally to receive the scholarship. To have someone who doesn't even know me believe in me and give me a scholarship was just amazing. It gave me a lift and helped me feel like I can do this."

Focusing on the Future

Madison McMath grew up in a very small, rural town called Moscow, Ohio, where the total population is less than 200, so it is no surprise she appreciates the small familial campus of Kettering College. She chose to attend Kettering College for the tight-knit atmosphere where everyone cares for each other and it "feels like a team."

She is a Health Sciences student in the pre-Physician Assistant Studies track and was surprised to hear one of her professors nominated her for a scholarship for her dedication and excellent academic standing.

Hard work is nothing new to Madison who also works at Kettering Health Main Campus as a patient care assistant in the operating room. When she received her scholarship, she says, "It was a huge relief. I was working full time and going to college full time." She has since been able to decrease her work hours to focus entirely on her academic success.



If a Kettering College education prepared you for a successful healthcare career, consider scanning the QR code to help support a student's journey.

FEATURED

1-2 | Krish Ramirez Torres is earning a scholarship for her academic excellence and leadership on campus as she works toward becoming a physician assistant.

3-4 | Madison McMath has found her scholarship to be helpful in allowing her to find balance between working and attending college.

5 | Recipients of scholarships created by alumni and friends of Kettering College meet their donors every year and have dinner with them to share their gratitude and updates.

Thank You to Donors

Adam Brown is the dean of Student Success. He sees firsthand the effect scholarships have on students' focus, success, and completion of programs. The variety of Kettering Health Foundation scholarships help students from all walks of life, including those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend college or are the first people in their families to enroll in college.

Adam notes, "We have worked hard to increase the applicant pool for our scholarships. We created an application that is easy to fill out and accessible on multiple devices, set criteria and standards for receiving the scholarships, and created a committee to deliberate and discern who should receive them."

Our scholarships are in place to help remove barriers for those who face financial obstacles. Adam credits donors for the continued success of our scholarship programs that assist the next generation of healthcare providers. He says, "I am so thankful for our donors who feel passionately about widening access to students. As a faith-based organization, this is part of our mission."

Letter from Ashley Neu, Director of Alumni Engagement



Scan here to see the full
schedule of the 2024
Alumni Reunion Weekend.

To our Dearest Alumni,
I hope this letter finds you well and thriving! As a proud representative of Kettering College, I bring you greetings and would like to express our deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to your alma mater. Your commitment to our institution extends far beyond your years as a student.
Your generosity—whether through financial contributions, mentorship, or simply spreading the word about the value of your education—has played a pivotal role in shaping the experiences of current and future students. We couldn't be prouder of you and look forward to continuing celebrating your successes.
Before we move further into our updates, I would like to introduce myself to you as the new director of Alumni Engagement. Having been a part of this esteemed institution for the past three years, I understand the invaluable bond that connects us all. I look forward to strengthening our connections and nurturing lifelong relationships between alumni. I am dedicated to continuing the work of those who held this role before me by providing you with opportunities for professional growth, networking, and giving back to your alma mater.
As we get ready for an exciting academic year ahead, I am delighted to share we have selected dates for our 2024 Alumni Reunion Weekend. **Please join us September 28-29, 2024, as we come together to reconnect as graduates of Kettering College. Please scan the QR code to see the full schedule for the 2024 Alumni Reunion Weekend.**

To make sure we are engaged and connected with you, I would like to encourage you to update your contact information and professional details through our alumni contact page, which you can find on our KC alumni website. You can also email your updated information to alumni@kc.edu. This will help us keep you informed about the latest developments at KC and invite you to events and opportunities to engage with us.
Additionally, to keep you connected and involved, please join our Group Alumni Facebook Page. This group page is customized for KC alumni to network, connect, and share memories. It's also another great way to stay informed and engaged with your beloved alma mater. You can find us by searching our group name "Kettering College Alumni" on Facebook.
Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to Kettering College. I am excited to embark on this journey of continued growth, connection, and success with you all. Kettering College continues to be proud to have you as part of our KC family. We are always here cheering you on in your success.
Best,

Ashley Neu

Ashley Neu, Director of Alumni Engagement & Career Services



New Grad Night with the Dayton Dragons



Kettering College alumni often become lifelong friends because of the bonds they formed in class and clinical experiences. After graduation, they move on to healthcare careers and maintain friendships with their peers who often become coworkers and colleagues.
Staying engaged and connected with other graduates is intentional and starts immediately after graduation. To foster these important connections, Ashley Neu, Alumni Engagement director, holds a New Grad Night at a Dayton Dragons game. The night gives recent graduates a time to gather, share stories of their new careers, and have fun together. This casual outing is a way to stay in touch after graduation.
Faculty also attended the night, now sitting with alumni as their peers, rather than their instructors. Social events such as this are an essential part of alumni staying connected both personally and professionally with the Kettering College family to share their updates with each other in person outside of work.
Ashley sat down with a group of recent graduates of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at the Dragons game. Here are their thoughts on why they continue to appreciate Kettering College and how valuable it is to continue friendships beyond graduation:

"I find it's important because it allows you to share in others' successes and see the growth your classmates have achieved from graduation to now."
—Kara Slyder, BSN July 2024

"I'm proud to say I went to Kettering College because of my education. I love how the staff and faculty want to help students succeed and be the best professionals they can be."
—Madison McFadden, BSN July 2024

"Getting a degree from Kettering College was awesome! I came out of school with three new sisters and lifelong best friends to continue to learn and grow with. I couldn't have asked for anything better."
—Taylor Klug BSN July 2023

"Attending Kettering College was one of the most intense, surely challenging, and yet transformative experiences of my life. I achieved my dream job, made friends who feel like family, and felt God's presence every step of the way. The dedication and support of the faculty and staff were fundamental to my success and growth, both personally and professionally. They went above and beyond, giving me the tools and encouragement I needed to achieve my goal. I'm incredibly grateful for the beautiful environment they created, which has had a lasting impact on my career and personal life. The faculty's reminders of the greatness of trusting in God and His work in our lives meant so much to me."
—Martina Irene Paris BSN July 2023



Alumna Uses Degree in Creative Way

Dr. Jodi Vogel was in the first cohort of the Occupational Therapy doctoral (OTD) program in 2015 at Kettering College. She graduated in 2018 and her career has taken her to places she did not expect—most notably, a farm.

Dr. Vogel is an adjunct professor at Kettering College who treats students with the same encouragement and support she says she received as a student from her professors. When she's not on our campus in the Ollie Davis building, she can be found on 20 acres in Eaton, as a co-owner at Triangle Therapy Services, a private practice dedicated to pediatric therapy conducted in an outdoor setting.

She has always known she wanted to work with children, but when she worked in a school setting prior to earning her doctorate, she wanted to be more creative with her modalities but wasn't sure how. She says after earning her OTD degree at Kettering College, her advanced degree created more opportunities for her, such as working at Triangle Therapy Services. When the owner was looking for a co-owner, Dr. Vogel knew she was on the right path in her career and stepped up to that leadership role.

She works with several clients who have autism, neurological sensory processing disorders, and Down Syndrome. She says, "The use of nature and animals as a treatment approach provides clients with the ability to target skills such as gross motor, fine motor, executive functioning, sensory processing, play, creativity, social participation, and emotional regulation. Many of my clients do not realize that they are "working" on establishing these skills. My approach is to utilize play for enhancing skills needed to participate in desired occupations while also building clients' confidence."

FEATURED

1-3 | Dr. Jodi Vogel works outside with the pediatric population to deliver occupational therapy in nature while utilizing play. (Photos Courtesy of Dr. Jodi Vogel)

Practicing occupational therapy on a farm in the woods next to a creek is something Dr. Vogel says is a great fit for her. When she was an OTD student, her professors at Kettering College told her to "think outside the box" when working with clients, and that is what she does every day with each unique client on the farm. She says, "I like that I can use my traditional therapy practices in a non-traditional setting. I get to explore and focus on play as the occupation."

Dr. Vogel continually helps other OTD students who are in the same stage of their lives as she once was. She takes on clinical students and recently worked on the farm with a student completing her Capstone at Kettering College. She values the importance of supporting students to try new things. She mentors them by reminding them to think creatively and be open to the possibilities of where their careers can go. Her life is the best example to illustrate this lesson.

From being an OTD student at Kettering College to now being an adjunct professor and co-owner of a private practice, she has gained the knowledge and experience it takes to confidently know she is exactly where she was meant to be. She says, "God works in mysterious ways. I thought I knew my plan years ago practicing as an occupational therapist assistant. However, God has guided me in a new and greater direction to better serve the pediatric population."



Alumni Reunion Weekend Reconnects Graduates

The 2023 Alumni Reunion Weekend was an enjoyable weekend full of activities reconnecting alumni from various graduating classes.

The weekend gave alumni a chance to reminisce as they spoke of their time at Kettering College. They leafed through old yearbooks and took tours of the campus that looks very different from when some alumni attended.

This is a special event, especially for alumni who don't live nearby and aren't always able to see the progress or walk the halls they once walked. Alumni who attended the Alumni Reunion Weekend spanned from the first graduating class of 1969 to 2019.

A highlight of the weekend is always the class reunion dinner, held in our auditorium. Prior to the dinner, students who have received scholarships from alumni are able to thank them and share their progress and growth with them.

The 2023 Distinguished Alumni Award was presented at the dinner to Dr. Amber Byrd, a 2018 graduate of the Occupational Therapy doctoral program.

To conclude the weekend, Kettering College held a gathering for alumni and their families at Young's Jersey Dairy. Alumni, faculty, and staff bundled up and enjoyed food and catching up with each other. It was a weekend that focused on the great pride we have in our alumni community and how wonderful it is to reconnect with them, no matter how long it's been.

FEATURED

- 1 | Alumni gather near the Anna May Café to share memories of Kettering College.
- 2 | Alumna Dr. Amber Byrd receives the Distinguished Alumni Award with her biggest fan.
- 3 | Students, faculty, and scholarship donors gather for dinner in the auditorium.
- 4 | Dr. Nate Brandstater speaks with alumni before the appreciation dinner begins.
- 5-6 | Alumni and their families gather for a social event at Young's Dairy to enjoy food and fellowship.



Donor Spotlight: Rebecca Kronauge

“I am eager to witness the positive influence future nurses will have in healthcare. I love that I can pay it forward for someone else.”

— Rebecca Kronauge, Kettering College Nursing Alumna



Rebecca Kronauge is a Kettering College alumna who has been enjoying a nursing and administrative career for over 40 years. She grew up in a healthcare family—both parents were physicians, and two of her sisters were nursing graduates from Kettering College.

Initially, her college major was in liberal arts, as she was undecided about her career. After coming home one Christmas break from another college, she felt the calling to become a nurse and applied to Kettering College.

She says, “I had a wonderful experience at Kettering College. The class sizes were small enough that I really had a good relationship with my professors and the other students. I felt my nursing education prepared me very well to begin my nursing career.”

After she earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Kettering College, she earned a master’s degree in healthcare administration. Rebecca has been working on the administrative side of healthcare for over 35 years and says her career is extremely fulfilling.

She can attest to the excellent education she received here, and her office often hires Kettering College graduates because of their proven professionalism and care.

To pay her blessings forward to students who are now where she once was, she created The Rebecca Nangle Kronauge Nursing Scholarship 15 years ago. Rebecca says she wanted to support aspiring students at Kettering College who are passionate about pursuing a career in nursing.

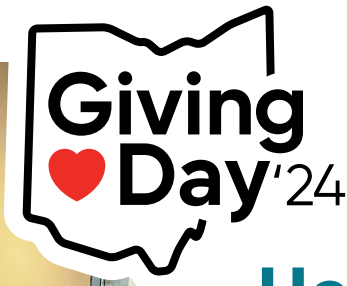
She says, “Having witnessed the dedication and hard work required in the nursing profession, I strongly believe in the importance of encouraging and promoting the next generation of nurses. By establishing this scholarship, I hope to provide financial assistance to deserving individuals who demonstrate potential and a genuine desire to make a positive impact in the field of nursing.”

Rebecca has attended the Scholarship Reception and Dinner during Alumni Reunion Weekend and has met students who have benefited from her scholarship. She says, “I knew then that starting the scholarship was the right thing to do. Their stories often include their financial struggles and how they are managing school, possibly a job, and raising a family. It’s so inspiring. They find a way to manage it all.”

From being a student who was entering the field of nursing to now being a professional in the field, Rebecca understands the journey well. She says, “I am committed to making a meaningful contribution to the education and development of future nurses, and I am eager to witness the positive influence they will have in healthcare. I love that I can pay it forward for someone else.”

FEATURED

1 | Rebecca Kronauge sits in her office where she works in healthcare administration. 2 | Kettering College campus.



Helping Students Reach Their Goals



Kettering College’s annual Giving Day was created to help support and cheer on our current students who are stepping into careers in healthcare. As they answer this sacred call to serve others, Kettering College wants to help make the journey smoother by assisting qualifying students with funds raised on Giving Day.

The three major scholarship funds that participants contributed to on Giving Day were:

- **General Scholarship Fund:** Helps alleviate the financial burden of students who are in need.
- **Student Assistance Fund:** Reduces the burden of unexpected financial challenges for students, allowing them the chance to focus on their education.
- **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Scholarship Fund:** Ensures students from historically underrepresented and marginalized communities have the opportunity to attend Kettering College.



FEATURED

1 | Employees from the Kettering Health Foundation prepare for Giving Day near Anna May Café. 2 | Dr. Nate Brandstater, Kettering College president, (second from right) and Jessica Beans, associate dean of Enrollment, (far right) welcome members of the college’s Board of Directors to the day. 3-4 | Students make a donation to take part in “Pie the Professor,” an event that allows them to pie their favorite faculty or staff member.

Kettering College’s 2024 Giving Day was a success, as current students, faculty, staff, and friends of the college teamed up with alumni to raise funds to make healthcare higher education accessible and affordable.

Tina Howard, Kettering Health Foundation giving officer for Kettering College, is one of the key players in creating this important event every year. She says, “We raised almost \$50,000, which is an 18% increase over last year. Several Kettering College Board of Directors came to kick off the day and talk with faculty and staff while also making their contributions to the college. It was fun to see the students get excited and involved in the ‘Pie the Professor’ events we had throughout the day. Thank you to all who helped in making this Giving Day a success.”

Any faculty or staff member on campus who gave a monetary gift of \$25 or more was entered into a raffle for a covered parking spot near the main campus building. Two additional parking spots were raffled off for any student giving at least a \$5 donation. As always, prime parking is a hot commodity at Kettering College!

Tina says, “Every gift, no matter the size, is making an impact on the lives of our students and continuing to advance healthcare in our community...Thank you for making Giving Day 2024 a big success and for ‘Bettering’ Kettering College!”

Commencement Ceremonies Deliver New Wave of Healthcare Workers



Kettering College's 56th commencement ceremonies in April and July marked the official beginning of healthcare careers for our graduates. Dr. Nate Brandstater, Kettering College president, conferred 45 degrees in April's ceremony and 160 degrees at July's ceremony.

At the ceremonies, Dr. Brandstater explained the history of the founding of Kettering College and the significance of creating such a unique healthcare college. He noted, "Kettering College has developed into an institution of quality, recognized, and faith-based education," and told graduates that the day's ceremony adds their story to our story.

He pointed out, akin to the founders of Kettering College, the graduates possess a similar vision of making the world a better place. He encouraged graduates to "savor this achievement" as they move forward to take on the next chapter. He acknowledged that this moment might have felt out of reach as they only imagined it until now.

Dr. Brandstater added, "This day, and this moment is a time for you to celebrate your extraordinary achievements. Bask in the glow of this moment, and may that glow light the path for what lies ahead."



Jaime Testa received a Bachelor of Health Sciences degree at the July ceremony and was the speaker. She shared that, as a cancer survivor, the care she received poured new life into her and helped her realize her purpose in life. She recounted that it was difficult to surrender control, but she learned that strength lives in leaning on others for help and being vulnerable.

Encouraging her peers to offer this same empathy to others, she told them, "As graduates, we possess a wealth of knowledge and skills, but our true measure will be found in how we use these gifts to lift others...Our greatest achievements will come from the acts of kindness and service we extend to others."

Jaime continued, "We live in a world where many are hungry for more than just food. They're hungry for hope, understanding, and love....When we encounter strangers, let's welcome them in with open hearts and open minds, celebrating diversity and fostering inclusion....The world is waiting for the impact only you can make."

Congratulations to all of our 2024 graduates—we look forward to the difference they will make.



FEATURED

- 1 | Nursing students attend the traditional Nursing Dedication ceremony, where they formally dedicate themselves to the profession of serving others.
- 2 | Students gather on the front yard of campus to view the total eclipse with protective glasses before heading back to class. (Photo Credit: Jessica Beans)
- 3 | Students in the Occupational Therapy doctoral program explain their research and insights to attendees for their poster presentations.
- 4 | Idamae Jenkins, Radiologic Sciences & Imaging assistant professor, instructs a radiologic technology class.
- 5 | A student in the Community Health Worker program attends the graduation ceremony with her proud family.
- 6 | Nursing faculty and staff speak from the control room to give voice to medical mannikins that students are working on in the simulation center.
- 7 | A group of students enjoy a campus picnic to kick off the summer in the lounge.
- 8 | Students, faculty, and staff pause for a moment of prayer before heading out to their volunteer positions for an all-campus Service Day.
- 9 | A Physician Assistant Studies student treats a "patient" during a clinical.
- 10 | Dr. Nate Brandstater, president, and Dr. Paula Reams, Nursing dean, prepare food for students to welcome them back to the new semester.
- 11 | A group of students gather outside for lunch on the first day of class.



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Save the Dates!

Alumni Reunion Weekend: September 28-29, 2024

Come back to Kettering College to reconnect, celebrate, and reminisce with your fellow alumni.

Kettering College Giving Day: April 9, 2025

Take part in this single-day campaign where alumni, faculty, staff, and Kettering Health leadership work together to raise funds for scholarships. Your contributions help our students pursue their dreams of working in healthcare, so please join us!

For more information, visit kc.edu/alumni