



# Shawnee Scholarship Program Update

*Together We GIVE, So They Can SUCCEED*

Fall  
2023

**Welcome to the Fall 2023 Shawnee Scholarship Program Update! In this edition we bring you some thoughts from our donors, an introduction to the new SHS principal, and some tax-saving tips on year-end giving...**

**In the Spring of 1927** the first graduating class of fourteen students received their diplomas from Shawnee High School. Since that day thousands of young people have walked in the doors of Shawnee High School and walked out as graduates. In 2027 Shawnee will celebrate 100 years of student success.

To highlight this significant milestone, the Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship Program was established.

This scholarship program provides a way for 100 years of Shawnee classmates and generations of Shawnee families to join fellow alumni to celebrate their time at SHS and build a legacy of support for future graduates. It is a great opportunity for donors to honor the special people at Shawnee who contributed toward their success. It is also a way to honor the many generations of family members who have attended Shawnee across the decades.

To date, 18 Shawnee graduates have received scholarships, providing \$34,000 in aid to deserving recipients. Please join us in supporting Shawnee graduates!

**The Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship Program** has been fortunate to have donors willing to invest in the future of Shawnee graduates. Many of these individuals have a sense they are only trustees of the money they've earned or inherited. They carefully consider how their gift might change lives, and they understand full well they are making an investment that will not only bring joy and satisfaction, but also solve a pressing and urgent problem.

**Keith Wandell** is a 1968 graduate of Shawnee. After graduating from Shawnee, Keith went on to receive a business administration degree from Ohio University, and an MBA from the University of Dayton. He remembers himself as a "good student but not a great student" in high school and college before he went on to excel in the business world, becoming President and COO of Johnson Controls, and then President and CEO of Harley-Davidson, Inc. Both are highly respected companies and world leaders. Keith and his wife, Deb, a Lima Bath graduate, are actively engaged in philanthropy.

"Life is a series of learnings. Not just at high school or college, but business even more. You go to school and learn, then the world teaches you about human behavior" says Mr. Wandell. When asked why he was willing to sponsor a scholarship, Mr. Wandell said "Education is the great equalizer, and the most important thing in life."

Developing future leaders is a passion for Mr. Wandell, and the Keith and Deborah Wandell Leadership Development Program at Ohio University promotes professional and personal growth of future leaders. "We need effective leaders in the world. Deb and I want to make sure the next generation of leaders understands the importance of trust, listening, and the value of relationships."

**The Keith and Deborah Wandell Scholarship** for Shawnee graduates is designed to lift up tomorrow's leaders. "Work hard first, focus on a good education, and it will pay dividends." **Thank you, Keith and Deborah, for helping develop tomorrow's leaders.**

**Rik Portmann and Bob Zarzar**, both 1969 graduates of Shawnee, shared a common goal when establishing **The Zarzar-Portmann Scholarship for Medicine**. Mr. Zarzar is a retired partner with Price Waterhouse Coopers (PwC) and a current resident of Oakton, Virginia, where he resides with his wife, Bonnie. When Mr. Zarzar was asked why he and Mr. Portmann decided to fund the scholarship in honor of their fathers, he replied "Our fathers were well respected doctors in Lima, and we felt it important to honor their contributions to the community and their commitment to education."

"Growing up," said Mr. Portmann, "I thought Lima and Shawnee High School were no place to be. As time went on, Shawnee became a great memory of a good education and lifelong friends." Mr. Portmann went on to say, "Experiences I had at Shawnee, good and bad, carry with me throughout my life. No matter what school one attends, the main experiences and lessons learned are the same." He wants graduates to "always remember one's strongest personal growth is through education. Knowledge lasts a lifetime, and no one can take it away from you. So go learn something! Continue your personal growth through education whether that be college, a trade school, tech school, or military service." **Thank you, Bob and Rik, for creating the Zarzar-Portmann Scholarship for Medicine.**

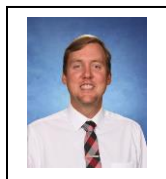
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**Tom Waltz** is a 2006 graduate of Shawnee. He and his wife, Nicole, are honoring Tom's grandparents through **The Thomas and Carolyn Frail Family Foundation Scholarship**. Trained as a petroleum engineer, Tom Waltz has been instrumental in the growth of multiple companies, including Antero Resources, one of the largest U.S. suppliers of natural gas and LPG to the global export market.

"Shawnee provided a very well-rounded academic experience that prepared me to handle both the scientific and literary art skills that I needed in college," says Mr. Waltz. "In college (in addition to math and science coursework), I was required to take multiple classes from the art, music, literature, and communications departments. I witnessed many other engineering peers struggle with those classes, while for me they repeated many of the things that Shawnee exposed me to. I think this theme has continued in my career as more of my day-to-day work focuses less on actual engineering and more on human interaction."

"Shawnee and the Lima area is still the community that I consistently feel connected to. Nicole and I felt it was better to give to something that we had some personal connection with, and if we could do that while honoring my grandparents it seemed like an easy choice." His advice for current high school students? "To always give your best effort regardless of what it is, academics, athletics, band, choir, or work."

*Thank you, Tom and Nicole, for not only honoring your grandparents, but for also supporting Shawnee graduates.*



### MEET MR. DYLAN DRONBERGER, SHAWNEE HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

Dylan Dronberger is the new Shawnee High School principal, having been in the role of assistant principal at Shawnee High School for the prior two years.

*Tell us a little about yourself...* "I grew up in Kansas," said Mr. Dronberger, "and met my wife, Ashley, who is from the Ottawa-Glandorf area, in Kansas. I attended Fort Hays State University for my Bachelors and Masters, and Ashley was a student at Kansas University. While in Kansas I was a history teacher, a basketball coach, a sponsor of student government, and then a principal and athletic director."

*How did you find your way to Shawnee?* Dylan and Ashley have been married eleven years and have three children, Ila (7), Lou (5), and Ezra (3). After COVID they decided to move closer to Ashley's family in NW Ohio. Seeing an opening for the assistant principal position at Shawnee, Dylan interviewed and quickly recognized Shawnee's "passion for education."

*Any particular impressions about Shawnee?* "Education is most important at Shawnee," said Mr. Dronberger, and he complimented SHS teachers for their knowledge and experience. He noted the tradition at Shawnee and that "everyone knows what it takes to be successful." He went on to say that "students are an active part of their education" and that a diploma from Shawnee High School is of value. "There are not many schools in the area that have as many Advanced Placement courses as Shawnee." Furthermore, he has great admiration for the students who are "respectful, follow the rules, and are willing to advocate for themselves."

*How do you see learning evolving?* When asked about the future of learning, Mr. Dronberger said that "teachers will still teach students," and that "students want a face-to-face experience." Remote learning will continue, however, making learning more accessible overall. "If it improves society, that is what is most important."

Artificial intelligence is becoming more widely used in education, so how might students use it responsibly? "It is the same as when the internet came out," said Mr. Dronberger. "You can use technology to improve yourself." He said teachers are best served when they understand the writing ability of each student so they can recognize if a student is using the technology, and how. He believes AI can be valuable to both teacher and student. "It can be a resource."

*With all his responsibilities at home and school, Mr. Dronberger also graciously shares his time and expertise by being a member of the Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship Advisory Board.* "I'm appreciative of the scholarship program and what you're doing," said Mr. Dronberger. "This is something special. When I am able to tell the students this is something being done to give back and support them, they are better able to realize the importance of Shawnee and their education here." *Thank you, Principal Dronberger, for all you do.*

## YEAR-END GIFT PLANNING TIPS

It's not too late to get started on year-end giving plans. Talk with your financial and tax advisors to see if these two tax-advantaged charitable giving strategies might help you make the most of your gift!

**Gift appreciated securities and avoid capital gains taxes** - One of the most tax-efficient ways to give is by donating appreciated assets held more than one year. This includes stocks, bonds, and other securities. How does it work? First, you donate appreciated assets directly to the Lima Community Foundation (LCF) in the name of the Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship program. You then could receive a tax deduction for the value of their gift AND avoid the capital gains tax you would incur if you simply sold the assets. Some nonprofits do not have the capacity to accept gifts of non-cash assets—but the Lima Community Foundation is ready to assist you with your contribution. Should you have any questions on how to make a gift of appreciated securities, email Adam Fazio, Interim Executive Director of the Lima Community Foundation at [lcfdirector@gmail.com](mailto:lcfdirector@gmail.com).



**Gift directly from your IRA and avoid income taxes** - Individual retirement account (IRA) owners age 70½ or older have the option to roll over up to \$100,000 annually from an IRA—indexed for inflation starting in 2024—directly to a qualifying charity or qualifying charitable fund. Whether they itemize or take the standard deduction, the distribution can be used to satisfy all or part of the donor's required minimum distribution (RMD) and the assets are not recognized as income. This technique, known as a qualified charitable distribution (QCD)—or more commonly, a charitable IRA rollover—is a well-established, easy, and popular way to give money to scholarship funds.

**Act now!** - Donations must be received by the Lima Community Foundation on or before December 31 to qualify as a charitable deduction on 2023 tax returns. Keep in mind some gifts of non-cash assets can take several weeks or longer to process, so plan ahead! And remember - the last business day of 2023 is Friday, December 29 for the markets and Saturday, December 30 for the post office! Similarly, donors wishing to make a 2023 QCD should submit the request to their IRA custodian by late November to ensure the gift is received at the Lima Community Foundation by December 31.



## Where do we go from here?

Contributions are the lifeblood of our mission, **and we need your help!** The program has a goal of reaching a \$1,000,000 endowment before the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Shawnee High School graduating class in 2027. To reach that goal we will need the help of everyone who has a stake in the future of Shawnee and its students. To date, we have raised over \$500,000 in contributions and given \$34,000 in scholarships! You have helped us reach this point and for that, all of us associated with the program are most appreciative.

**But we still have \$500,000 to go!** We hope you will consider a contribution to the Shawnee Scholarship Program this year. A contribution of any size helps support Shawnee graduates. To contribute, or for more valuable information, please go to [www.LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org](http://www.LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org).

Best wishes,  
Tom Orchard, SHS 1970  
Chair, Lima Shawnee Alumni Legacy Scholarship Program  
[info@LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org](mailto:info@LimaShawneeScholarshipFund.org)





LIMA COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

## Commitment Form

### Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Recognition Listing \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print as you wish it to appear in acknowledgements/publications.)  
\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to remain anonymous.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### My/Our Gift

In support of the Lima Community Foundation, I/ we pledge a total commitment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_,  
payable beginning \_\_\_\_\_ (Month), \_\_\_\_\_ (Year).

☐ Over 5 Years ☐ Over 3 Years ☐ One Payment ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

I/we are donating this amount to the following fund: \_\_\_\_\_

Installments will be paid: ☐ Monthly ☐ Quarterly ☐ Semi-annually ☐ Annually

Please send me a payment reminder each year in: ☐ January ☐ May ☐ September ☐ December

### Payment Information

Pledge will be paid by:

☐ Check made payable to "Lima Community Foundation"

☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Printed name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donor Signature (required)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pledge Date

Thank you for your support!

The Lima Community Foundation is a nonprofit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Service Code. Your gift to the Lima Community Foundation, for which you received no goods or services, may be tax-deductible under current tax law. Please consult your tax professional.