

The Hocking College Press

NELSONVILLE, OHIO

NELSONVILLE’S LIFELONG ADVOCATE: A GLIMPSE INTO BETTY JO PARSELEY’S ADVOCACY JOURNEY



If you’ve ever walked through the streets of Nelsonville or attended a community event, chances are you’ve crossed paths with Betty Jo Parsley. A lifelong resident and passionate advocate for her hometown, Betty Jo’s story is deeply interwoven with the history, struggles, and triumphs of Nelsonville. Her dedication to the town and its people shines through her decades of community service, storytelling, and heartfelt connections.

Born Betty Jo Keller in Dayton, Ohio, she moved to Nelsonville as a child when her parents returned to care for her aging grandmother. “I have a true invested interest in Nelsonville because this is my hometown,” Betty Jo shared. “I want it to be the best it can be.” Her deep roots in Nelsonville’s history also trace back to her great-grandfather Gotlieb Nerick, who came to the United States from Germany at eight years old. He worked in Lancaster delivering medical supplies via horse and buggy until he paid off his indentured servitude to the doctor who owned the pharmacy. This story of resilience and determination has left an everlasting mark on her family’s values.

Betty Jo’s love for her community took root early. Her first job as a paper girl for The Nelsonville Tribune introduced her to the world of newspapers. She recalls convincing her mother to let her take a route in the Frog Hollow neighborhood, a decision that would shape her path. Under the guidance of Dick Kunzman, a decorated World War II interpreter and owner of The Tribune, she learned about publishing and connecting with readers. “My introduction into journalism and writing became possible because I was a paper deliverer.”

Betty Jo worked on her high school newspaper before joining

the Logan Daily News, where she honed her craft for 15 years before moving to the Athens Messenger. “I have no formal college education. Mine’s all practical experience,” she explained. Despite this, she became a trusted voice in the community, writing the popular column Six Public Square, which spotlighted the lives of Nelsonville residents.

Her passion extended beyond writing. Betty Jo’s advocacy helped preserve Nelsonville’s history and improve its infrastructure. From securing historic preservation projects like the adaptive reuse of the old high school into housing to campaigning for a community swimming pool, Betty Jo has tirelessly worked to uplift her town. “You can’t have things unless we work for them,” she said.

When asked about Nelsonville’s evolution, Betty Jo reflected on the changes over the years. She spoke fondly of the St. Mary Hospital, a significant community milestone, and the advent of Hocking College, which she credits with bringing new opportunities to the area. But she also acknowledged the challenges the town faces today. “We are struggling with certain things, but the foundation is here. We just need to focus on the positive and keep moving forward.”

Betty Jo’s deep commitment to helping others is evident in her everyday life. Whether driving friends to appointments or assisting at polling places, she exemplifies selflessness. “I love the people. I love the town. I want to see it be the best it can be,” she said. Betty Jo shared that she could not do all the wonderful things she does without the loving support of her sisters Karen Pidcock and Nickie Blackburn and her children, Nicole, Paula, and Nerick.

Looking to the future, Betty Jo is focused on her grandchildren, who continue the family legacy of hard work and determination. Whether cheering for her granddaughter Hazel at softball games or supporting her grandson Nerick’s wrestling matches, Betty Jo finds joy in watching the next generation grow.

As she continues delivering newspapers for the Athens Messenger and the publication you are currently reading, Betty Jo remains as busy as ever, dedicating herself to the community she cherishes. “You don’t have to be recognized to be somebody,” she said. “All you have to do is figure out what you need to do and how you can get it done.”

For a woman who humbly describes herself as “just Betty Jo Parsley,” she is, without a doubt, a remarkable and indispensable part of Nelsonville’s history and future.

If you want to learn more about Nelsonville’s rich history, Betty Jo recommends visiting the local library’s history room or exploring archives about key community projects.

CAMPUS EVENTS



FDRM

FASHION DESIGN & RETAIL MERCHANDISING

The Fourth Annual FASHION SHOW

A RUNWAY SHOWCASE FEATURING THE FASHION DESIGN & RETAIL MERCHANDISING PROGRAM

MAY 2, 2025 DOORS OPEN 6:00pm
The Lodge at Hocking College - Nelsonville, Ohio

TICKET SALES AT: WWW.HOCKING.EDU/FASHION-SHOW

PRODUCED IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH





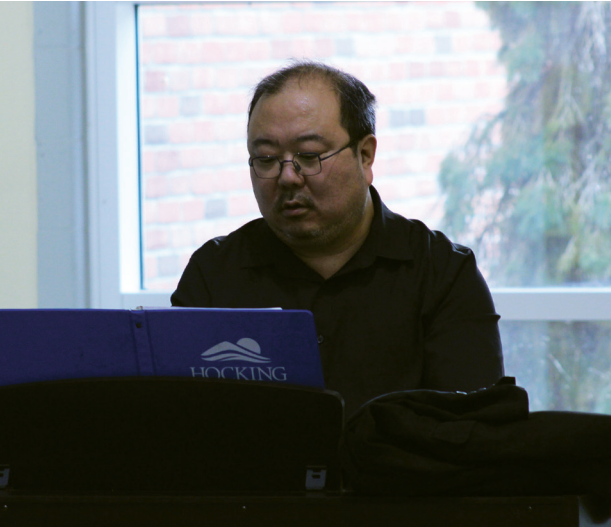
EVERY WEDNESDAY

BINGO NIGHT

4 PM DOORS OPEN
BINGO STARTS AT 6 PM



HOCKING COLLEGE HOLIDAY CHEER




Hocking College students spread holiday cheer with festive carols at the 2024 Tree Lighting Event.




hocking.edu



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Hocking College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Hocking College Ombudsman
ombudsman@hocking.edu | 740-753-7050

All of Hocking College’s career and technical education programs follow the district’s policies of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability in all programs, services, activities and employment. In addition, arrangements can be made to ensure that the lack of English language proficiency is not a barrier to admissions or participation.

HOCKING BREAKS GROUND ON NEW RESCUE KITCHEN

Hocking College took a big step toward fighting hunger and food waste with the groundbreaking of its Rescue Kitchen at The Lodge on Friday, November 10. The event featured guest speakers like First Lady Fran DeWine, Lieutenant Governor John Husted, Robin Burrow from the Joe Burrow Foundation, Julie Richardson of SugarCreek Packing and Katie Funk from La Soupe Cincinnati.

The Rescue Kitchen has a clear mission: reduce food waste and help people facing food insecurity. According to the USDA, about 30-40% of food produced in the U.S. gets thrown away. The Rescue Kitchen plans to change that by turning surplus food into healthy, ready-to-eat meals.

Inspired by La Soupe Cincinnati's successful model, the program will rely on chefs and volunteers to rescue edible produce that might otherwise end up in a landfill. SugarCreek Packing has already saved over five million pounds of food since 2017, and they're excited to bring that impact to Southeast Ohio through this partnership.

This initiative reflects Hocking College's dedication to helping the community and protecting the environment. With support from partners and the community, the Rescue Kitchen is set to make a real difference in the fight against food waste and hunger. As the Rescue Kitchen project takes shape, it will rely on continued community support to fulfill its promise of reducing food waste and feeding those in need.



Congratulations Graduates! On December 7, over 140 graduates crossed the stage, celebrating their hard work, resilience, and dedication. Your Hawks family is so proud of you! As you soar into your careers, remember: Hocking College is always part of your story. Congratulations, Class of 2024!



RHIANNA FAULK RECEIVES RISE UP RECOGNITION

Rhianna Faulk's journey at Hocking College wasn't always smooth, but her determination paid off. After facing setbacks in her second year, Rhianna pushed through, returning to campus and completing her studies with the support of her family, advisor, and mentors like her teacher, Odaine.

In addition to her studies, Rhianna actively engaged in campus life, organizing an Earth Day event in Nelsonville and participating in the paranormal club's community fundraisers. Her dedication and resilience earned her the Rise Up recognition, an achievement that boosted her confidence and highlighted her strengths beyond sports.

Congratulations, Rhianna – your perseverance is inspiring!



Treshawn Cody Earns Back-to-Back Player of the Week Honors Hocking College's sophomore forward Treshawn Cody is making waves on the court! He was named the Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) Player of the Week for two consecutive weeks. His standout performances helped lead the Hawks to three decisive wins between Nov. 18-25.




ENVISION YOUR CAREER

MEDICAL ASSISTING



ACCREDITATION

 The Medical Assistant Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP).

PRACTICUM AND YOUR CMA (AAMA) CREDENTIALS

The Medical Assisting Program offers two practicum experiences in a physician's office where skills will be performed in a real-world environment. Graduates will sit for the Certified Medical Assistant National Exam through the American Association of Medical Assistants. In demand, Medical Assisting is one of the most in-demand careers and growth is anticipated to outpace many other occupations.



YOUR CLASSROOM

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Clinical Procedures
Documentation of care and patient work-up, preparing and administering medications, phlebotomy, wound care, assist with surgical procedures, ECG's, spirometry, vital signs, and suture removal.
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Medical Lab Procedures
Collect, prepare, and process specimens such as urinalysis, blood panels, hemoglobin, glucose, streptococcus, influenza, and pregnancy tests.
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Administrative Procedures
Scheduling appointments, health information management, billing, coding, insurance, precertification for procedures, medical reception duties, and patient registration.
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Set the Bar for Excellence
Serve as a patient navigator, take a team approach to patient care, protect patient confidentiality, and promote patient safety and well-being.

DIAMOND DAWGZ

Americana EATERY

REOPENS MARCH 19, 2025





SCAN ME FOR RESERVATIONS!

Rhapsody Music and Dining

Make Dinner Memorable

WEDS - SAT 5 PM TO 9 PM



THE LODGE AT HOCKING COLLEGE

The Perfect Getaway

Whether you're looking for a relaxing weekend away or a venue for an event, The Lodge has a room for you!

<https://thelodge.hocking.edu/>

Upcoming Important Dates

- **Fri, Feb. 7** - Last Day to order cap and gown
- **Fri, Feb. 7** - Spring Graduation Application Due
- **Fri, Feb. 14** - Last Day to Drop/Withdraw (first 8-week courses)
- **Fri, Mar. 14** - Spring Break (College Closed)