

UNOH ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

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1920-1970 1970-1973 1973-1990 1990-2000 2000-Present

April 2026 ISSUE

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ALUMNI MAKE AN IMPACT AT UPPER VALLEY CAREER CENTER

We love seeing our graduates go on to lead, mentor, and give back in their industries. That was on full display during a recent visit to **Upper Valley Career Center**, where we had the pleasure of reconnecting with two outstanding UNOH alumni now helping shape the next generation of skilled professionals.

Andy Buehler, a 2004 High Performance graduate, now serves as an Automotive Instructor, sharing his industry knowledge and hands-on expertise with students preparing for careers in the automotive field. Andy has achieved several accolades including a \$100,000 grand prize from Harbor Freight Tools for Schools Teaching Excellence Award.

Konner Keller, a 2018 Robotics and Automation graduate, is making his mark as a Robotics Instructor, helping students develop the technical skills needed for careers in automation, manufacturing, and emerging technologies.

It is always rewarding to see alumni not only succeeding professionally but also investing in future generations through education and mentorship. Andy and Konner are excellent examples of the lasting value of a UNOH education and the many ways our graduates continue to make a difference.



ALUMNI RETURN TO CAMPUS FOR SPRING CAREER FAIR

We were thrilled to welcome UNOH alumni back to campus for this year's Spring Career Fair representing their employers and recruiting the next generation of talent.

It was inspiring to see alumni on the other side of the table, connecting with students, sharing career advice, and creating pathways to real opportunities in the industries our students are preparing to enter. Their presence is a powerful reminder of the impact of the UNOH experience and the strength of our alumni network.

Are you or your employer interested in recruiting UNOH talent? Make sure you're on our employer mailing list to receive updates on future career fairs, hiring opportunities, and ways to connect with students and alumni.

[UPDATE EMPLOYER INFORMATION](#)



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: JADA HAINES GIVES BACK IN AKRON

We love seeing our alumni make a positive impact in their communities.

Jada Haines '23, a former standout member of the UNOH women's basketball program, is giving back to the organization that helped shape her own journey—Ladies First Akron.

After graduating, Jada returned home where she mentors and coaches the next generation of young women, helping them build confidence both on the court and in life.

Jada is a wonderful example of what it means to turn passion into purpose!

[WATCH THE STORY](#)



ALUMNUS SPOTLIGHT: ANDREW KUSTRA'S HIGH-IMPACT CAREER

Andrew Kustra '08 set out to build a career in high performance motorsports—but his UNOH education opened doors far beyond the racetrack.

From engine building to precision machining and now a leadership role in automation and robotics, Andrew's journey reflects the versatility of a hands-on technical foundation.

His story highlights how UNOH grads can adapt their skills across industries while building meaningful, successful careers.

Andrew is eager to help current students and alumni explore the wide range of opportunities available to them.

[READ ABOUT ANDREW](#)



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: JESSICA CADE IS TEACHER OF THE YEAR

From serving our country to shaping the next generation, Jessica Cade '19 is making a meaningful difference in North Carolina.

Jessica found her calling as an educator and coach. She teaches 8th-grade English Language Arts and Social Studies, creating a supportive classroom environment where students feel valued and challenged.

On the volleyball court, she guided her team to back-to-back Lee Moore Conference championships in 2024-25 and 2025-26.

Whether helping students connect with history or building confidence through athletics, Jessica brings passion, dedication, and heart to everything she does.

[READ ABOUT JESSICA](#)



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2026 GRADUATION ALUMNI BOOTH

Alumni Relations is seeking volunteers to at the Alumni Booth during the 2026 Graduation Ceremony at the Lima Civic Center on Sunday, June 14.

This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni, welcome new graduates and their families, and be part of one of the most meaningful celebrations of the year.

Volunteer Shift Options

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

As a thank you, volunteers will receive special UNOH merchandise.

If you would like to participate, please contact Melanie Barnas-Simmons at alumni@unoh.edu.



SPONSOR THE EVENT



JOB OPPORTUNITY - APPRENTICE TECHNICIAN

GC Performance Classics in Shelbyville, Tennessee, is seeking a motivated Apprentice Technician to join its growing restoration team, offering hands-on experience working alongside seasoned professionals on classic European and American vehicles, including Jaguars, muscle cars, and vintage performance models.

This is an excellent opportunity for someone passionate about automotive restoration, motorsports, and craftsmanship to develop skills in mechanical repair, diagnostics, fabrication, and performance systems.

The shop is also part of an expanding enterprise tied to Tennessee Downs, an emerging road course and automotive club creating exciting long-term career potential. **Trey Heier '24** is part of the GC Performance Classics team and would be happy to share his experience.

For more information about this opportunity, please contact Melanie Barnas-Simmons at alumni@unoh.edu.



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STAY CONNECTED!

The University of Northwestern Ohio is a private, not-for-profit institution, driven by an entrepreneurial spirit known for a diversified curriculum of quality programs valued by employers. The University embraces a student-centered, community-engaged culture that respects the values of its students, faculty, staff, and alumni.