This year’s annual report contains many impressive highlights of the past year. At the time of printing the 2020 annual report, the college was eight months into the pandemic, and most of the report centered on the college’s response to all the challenges. The fall of 2020 semester had been navigated well with a modified schedule and modalities until Thanksgiving, when the college needed to be partly shuttered for the second time. This experience led to the decision to schedule the winter semester with limited fully in-seat offerings to guard against having to force students to change modifications during the semester. The winter semester proceeded well, with limited impact from COVID. Housing remained open, athletics continued, and a limited-attendance commencement was conducted for both the 2020 and 2021 graduates.

While the past year remained challenging, there was much to celebrate. The rapid pace of campus improvements continued. Among the numerous projects completed was the complete renovation of the tech wing. This project had to be undertaken solely with college resources because the scope of the state capital outlay project had to be reduced due to the significant increase in building materials and labor costs caused by the pandemic. The tech wing was built in 1971 to respond to community concern over the lack of technical laboratories within the original building. The renovation centered on the upgrading of the auto lab and constructing a new welding lab in the former machining lab. The machining program and equipment were moved to Sturgis High School to make it part of the CTE program. The project included complete exterior residing with two-tone gray, insulated metal panels, total repainting of the interior, moving the auto classroom and building a new welding classroom, and the development of twenty new welding booths and vacuum systems, new overhead doors, new electrical, and an additional overhead door for easier auto lab pass through. Donations totaling $87,500 were used to complete the welding booths, vacuum systems and equipment. Please see the full story in this publication.

The long awaited capital outlay project was launched on November 11, after many delays and challenges. Among these was the pandemic that caused the governor to veto the bill in March, 2020, that contained the state approval to proceed. The renewed approval was not garnered until December 2020. When the final plans and costs were drafted, the $7.3 million project had ballooned to $9.8 million. This forced the college to revise the scope of the project, which then required the approval of the project by the state for a second time. At the time of this publication, there is a new challenge. The initial bids came in over budget. This means that the bids will need to be reworked by each of the contractors to stay within the scope of work but reduce the costs before work may begin. All of these delays have truly challenged the college family and tried the patience of everyone. Hopefully, in next year’s annual report, there will be a celebration of the ribbon cutting for this project.

Among the many other stories covered in this report, please see the revised Strategic Plan and Mission Statement, a review of the 2021 awards, the Motorcycle Safety program, CTE Teacher Academy, recognition by the Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce, the student mentor program, COVID relief funding, state financial aid programs for frontliners and reconnect students, athletics, and more. Of special note is the GOCC Foundation initiative to connect with alumni. Foundation Board members have been working at community events to expand connections with graduates and services provided to them. The goal is to increase alumni engagement with the college.

Please enjoy this report and be sure to contact us with any questions, suggestions, or personal news of note that we may share. We are always here to serve.

David H. Devier, Ph.D.
President
It is time to reflect on the twelve months that have passed since my last message, and we have gone through yet another year of challenges, triumphs and losses. In my last letter I wrote of life on campus returning to some semblance of normal. However, that was not the case. The fall semester started with high hopes with on-campus learning and full student housing; however COVID had other plans and we were forced to return to mostly remote learning and empty housing. In spite of all this, thanks to the resourcefulness, cooperation and resiliency of our staff and students, life and learning has continued.

Highlights of the last year include:

With much planning we were once again able to open our campus to onsite learning this fall. There have been some bumps in the road, but our staff has been able to meet the challenges of students on campus along with full student housing.

As will be discussed in more detail later in this report, after three years our capital outlay funding is finally included in the state budget. At press time, we were in the bidding process with plans to start the renovations to the north portion of campus shortly thereafter.

Because of increased costs for construction materials during the three years since the process started, we were no longer able to complete the entire project as planned with the approved funding. As such, we had to reevaluate and remove the renovations to the tech building from that project. However, we did not abandon this badly needed work. With generous donations, the able work of our maintenance staff and with resourcefulness, we took it on ourselves. We now have restored a fifty-year-old building and fully updated the welding lab facilities to carry on our mission to provide state-of-the-art career technical education. The facility was dedicated this fall almost fifty years to the day from its original dedication.

After the upheaval of the pandemic, which caused a drop in our high school student counts, Early Middle College, Dual Enrollment and Career Technical Education are once again on the upswing. Additionally, we recently hired Claudia Pahls, former career prep coordinator at Sturgis schools, to head up the Dual Enrollment program as it continues to grow.

Congratulations to Glen Oaks President Dr. David Devier on receiving the Regional Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) Regional CEO award in San Diego this fall. This positive light shines not only on him, but is a tribute to the work of the entire college community!

On a somber note, on November 11 after last year’s report went to press, James Moshier passed away. He served three six-year terms as a trustee and served as board secretary for many of those years. Upon retiring from the board he was granted trustee emeritus status. Those of us who served with him truly miss his wit, wisdom and passion for the mission of our college.

As you can see, Glen Oaks Community College is constantly moving forward to provide affordable higher education opportunities to all of us. None of this would be possible without the hard working and innovative administration, faculty and staff. On behalf of the board, we are all proud to be a part of this great institution.

Bruce S. Gosling
Board Chair

Bruce S. Gosling
Chairperson
Kimberlee J. Bontrager
Treasurer
Nancy A. Percival
Vice-Chairperson
Elizabeth A. Datkovic
Trustee
Rod Lopez
Secretary
Carol Higgins
Trustee
P. Joseph Haas
Trustee

GOCC Total Enrollment

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Vision
Transforming Lives and Advancing Communities

Mission
The mission of Glen Oaks Community College is to provide opportunities for academic and lifelong success through excellence in teaching and comprehensive support services that meet our community’s diverse educational needs.

Values – “Glen Oaks CARES”

C - Communication and Civility: Glen Oaks values the open and responsible exchange of ideas. We uphold the importance of interacting in ways that demonstrate caring, civility, and respect while encouraging improved models for using technology to connect and improve the linkages among individuals and communities.

A - Access and Academic Success: Glen Oaks values having an open door to all students and believes that appropriate support is vital to the success of all students. Holding students and ourselves to high expectations, we celebrate learning within an educationally transformative environment: one that embraces diverse perspectives and creates meaningful connections between students, faculty, and student affairs professionals.

R - Responsiveness and Service: Glen Oaks values targeted actions to address community needs and internal needs. Recognizing that existing needs change dynamically, we value the role of the college in helping our communities prepare for the future as they develop, succeed and prosper.

E - Ethical Conduct and Transparency: Glen Oaks values acting on the basis of mutual respect. We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve and seek to model integrity in all we do. Information related to the college and its performance is understood as public and is made accessible and transparent.

S - Sustainability and Stewardship: Glen Oaks values the ability to acquire, develop, use, and manage resources to sustain the college’s mission. We exercise appropriate control over the college’s human, financial, and academic and support services, and physical plant as essential to effective public stewardship.

GOAL 1:
Our students will succeed.

Objective 1: By August 2023, of those testing at a pre-college level in math, increase the proportion of credential-seeking students who successfully complete college level math by 3%. The 2020 VFA* baseline is 17.6%.

Objective 2: By August 2023, increase the proportion of part-time students who are retained fall to winter by 3%. The 2020 VFA* baseline is 61.2%.

Objective 3: By August 2023, increase the proportion of part-time students attaining an associate degree or certificate by 3%. The VFA* 2020 baseline is 18.0%.

Objective 4: By August 2023, meet or exceed the national benchmark (50th percentile) for Engaged Learning on the Survey for Entering Student Engagement (SENSE). The 2019 baseline rate is 48%.

Objective 5: By August 2023, decrease the performance gap to ≤ 0.70 for the following items on the Student Satisfaction Inventory (SSI):
   A. I receive ongoing feedback about progress toward my academic goals.
   B. Faculty provide timely feedback about my academic progress.

Objective 6: By May 2022, a comprehensive database will be developed that depicts the transfer and success rates of dual enrollment high school seniors and EMC cohort students for 2020-21 using data from 2013-19 to establish a baseline for analysis. In addition, a cost savings analysis will be completed to depict the cost savings for these students.

Objective 7: By August 2021, establish a baseline of the proportion of EMC students who complete a degree or certificate. By August 2023, increase the EMC graduation rate by 4%.

The Voluntary Framework for Accountability (VFA) is a national system of accountability designed for community colleges by community colleges. Its measures were defined to reflect the unique mission of community colleges and the diversity of the student body, including serving students in need of remedial education. In 2020, 23 of Michigan’s community colleges participated in VFA. Glen Oaks has participated annually since 2014.

GOAL 2:
We will become a Community Model committed to the values of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Objective 1: By December 2022, conduct a comprehensive campus climate study to establish a baseline concerning the college community’s awareness, understanding, and appreciation of all forms of human diversity and inclusion within the college and in the community.
Objective 2: By December 2022, the college will host an event focused on increasing the appreciation of diversity in the community.

Objective 3: By August 2022, the percentage of DE/CTE/EMC African American/Black high school students will increase by 5%. The 2020-21 baseline is 1.0%.

Objective 4: By June 2022, the college will revise and enact an employee recruitment plan aimed at diversifying the faculty and staff to better match the student profile.

Objective 5: By August 2022, there will be a fully developed “Student Success Mentor” program with a minimum of 500 direct student-mentor connections.

Objective 8: By June 2022, a new emergency preparedness plan will be developed which addresses the full range of potential events and threats, including weather, fire, and health and safety.

Objective 5: By August 2022, there will be a fully developed “Student Success Mentor” program with a minimum of 500 direct student-mentor connections.

Objective 6: By August 2022, establish a new and/or update an existing vocational certificate and/or degree program that aligns with one of the “Southwest Michigan Career Outlook (through 2026)” high-wage or in-demand careers established through the Michigan Bureau of Labor Market Information and Strategic Initiatives.

Objective 7: By August 2022, complete Phase One of the five year capital outlay plan via the $7.3 million state capital outlay project which addresses the complete renovation of the north side of the campus, including the Learning Commons, the technology laboratories, the art studio, restrooms, renovation of the northeast and northwest stairwells, business area classroom upgrades, HVAC and IT upgrades, window and door replacement, and exterior wall replacement.

GOAL 4:
We will expand and strengthen our collaborative relationships.

Objective 1: By August 2023, provide wide community access to diverse perspectives and relevant national issues via the Viking Speaker Series, reaching a minimum of 600 attendees each year.

Objective 2: By August 2022, participate in a minimum of eight external community events in which the college is represented, two of which are new.

Objective 3: By August 2022, develop a viable usage plan for the Nora Hagen House. This plan will include details that will increase the use of the farmstead and build greater appreciation for this asset.

The Strategic Plan Summary has been extensively updated since the recent board retreat. At press time, it was set for submission to the GOCC Board of Trustees November meeting. This is a working document as goals and objectives are reviewed monthly.

GOCC Student Body Composition

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>New Full-Time</th>
<th>New Part-Time</th>
<th>Continuing Full-Time</th>
<th>Continuing Part-Time</th>
<th>Transfer-In Full-Time</th>
<th>Transfer-In Part-Time</th>
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Congratulations to Glen Oaks President Dr. David H. Devier on receiving the 2021 Central Regional Chief Executive Officer Award from the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) at the Annual ACCT Leadership Congress in San Diego in October.

Devier, a native of Ada, Ohio, has worked in education for over 45 years and has served as the president of Glen Oaks since January 2014. Prior to that he held leadership positions at: Clark State Community College in Springfield, Ohio; University of Cincinnati Clermont College in Batavia, Ohio; Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio; and Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

Devier earned his Ph.D in Industrial Technology Education from The Ohio State University, a Master of Arts in Industrial Arts Education from Kent State University and a Bachelor of Arts in Industrial Arts Education from Ohio Northern University.

Said to be an innovator throughout his forty-five-year career in higher education, Devier’s career is divided into two halves, twenty-one years with four-year universities and twenty-four years with two-year institutions.

His career at Glen Oaks has provided stability and vision to the college and he is credited with initiating the project to build a 106-bed residence hall to accommodate student athletes and out-of-town students due to a lack of housing in the area. In addition, he led the complete renovation of the grand concourse. Currently, he is the force behind the $7.3 million state capital outlay project to renovate the north half of the original building which houses the E. J. Shaheen Learning Commons, technology labs and instructional spaces. In addition, he spearheaded many campus grounds improvements including complete parking lot resurfacing and the removal of the obsolete safety egress earthen mounds.

Under his leadership, student enrollment has grown by 25 percent and high school dual enrollment to over 50 percent of the total.

ACCT’s regional awards recognize the tremendous contributions made by community colleges and their leaders to meeting the needs of their communities.

Congratulations on behalf of the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff and students.

Above: GOCC President Dr. David H. Devier received the ACCT Regional CEO award during the Annual ACCT Leadership Congress in San Diego in October. He is pictured receiving the award from David Mathis, ACCT Chair, on left, and J. Noah Brown, ACCT President & CEO, right.
Kevin Conner receives distinguished E.J. Shaheen Teaching Excellence award

Kevin Conner, professor of information technology, was the 2021 recipient of the prestigious E. J. Shaheen Teaching Excellence award. He was recognized as part of the college’s commencement ceremony in May.

Conner is said to be a captivating and caring instructor who works hard to make sure his students fully understand concepts and succeed in their classes as well as in their future. He has continuously worked to expand the range of information technology program offerings. Above and beyond the classroom, he began the Gaming Club a few years ago, and pre-pandemic, he spent 3-4 hours on weeknights, as well as Saturday mornings, in order to provide times for like-minded students to come together to advance not only their gaming skills, but their social skills.

Conner, a Sturgis native, had always thought about studying computers; but after graduating from Sturgis High School, instead he started doing residential and commercial painting in addition to working a part-time job at Porter Drug Store in town. After suffering a life-changing health condition affecting his mobility at age 29, he recalls driving out to Glen Oaks and making the decision to go to college.

“I sold my fishing boat and trailer, and a few other assets to pay for a basic computer which was about $3,000 back in the nineties,” said Conner, “and I began classes as an adult student.”

Shortly into his studies, he was offered a part-time position in the college’s media center as a media assistant. This marked the beginning of his 27-year career at Glen Oaks.

Conner earned an Associate of Applied Science in Business, with a focus on micro-computer applications in 1997. During commencement, he was honored with the President’s Award. He also received the Wall St. Journal Award in recognition for excellence in academics.

Conner continued working part-time at the media center upon graduation and was soon offered an opportunity to teach a data processing class on campus over the summer.

“I was surprised at the opportunity and nervous about the teaching assignment,” said Conner, “but it actually went quite well.”

He also taught in the following fall semester while pursuing a bachelor’s degree at Davenport University’s Kalamazoo campus. He received a Bachelor in Applied Science specializing in E-Commerce in 2003, before obtaining a Master of Science in 2005 at Capella University where he specialized in computer networking.

“I taught as an adjunct and that soon turned into a part-time teaching position,” said Conner. “I eventually became a full-time faculty member while in the last year of my master’s program.” Conner has been instrumental in advancing the Information Technology Department during his time with Glen Oaks.

“When I started, we didn’t have strictly Information Technology degrees,” said Conner. “Computer classes were offered through the Business Department. One of the first classes that I brought to the program was a computer repair course, followed by a computer networking course. Early programs focused more on web development, but as things became more automated through the use of content management systems such as Word Press, demand for those programs decreased.”

More recently, Conner spearheaded the effort to bring a couple Cybersecurity programs and an Associate of Computer Science degree to campus.

Through the years, Conner has seen a lot of change on campus. “One of the biggest changes has been in student demographics,” said Conner. “When starting as a student, it was a mixture of 18-year-olds and adult students. The students are much younger today, as a result of the college serving a large number of area high school students.”

“Continued on Page 8

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Student Body Age Range

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Age Groups

- 18 or Under
- 19-25
- 26-40
- 41 and Up
Kevin Conner

Continued from Page 7

“I remember early on — one of my adult students was crying one day because she accidentally turned the cursor into a dinosaur and thought she had broken the computer,” said Conner.

“Classes are more hands-on and engaging today,” said Conner of the changes in teaching. “They say you can lose a student’s attention in less than a second, so you need to be mindful of that. Instructors need to keep things short and to the point. Changes in technology through the years have made that all the easier for me.”

“Our greatest strength is the small size and personal attention we give our students,” said Conner. “It’s hard not to become friends with the students in your class.”

So what’s in store for the future? Conner sees growing the Gaming Club. “Eports, or virtual sports, have gained a lot of momentum recently,” said Conner. “It’s getting pretty common for schools to have esports teams compete online with one another. Perhaps the biggest hurdle is figuring out which game(s) to use for competition. Probably the most common ones out there today are League of Legends, followed by Dota 2 and Counter-Strike. There are pro-gamers out there and the stakes for winners are high.”

For now, Conner continues to advise the club — his favorite game? Tom Clancy’s Rainbow Six Siege.

The E. J. Shaheen Chair for Teaching and Excellence Award was initiated in 1984 with a generous donation from E. J. Shaheen, one of the original Glen Oaks Board members. Shaheen, a college professor, lawyer, and business owner, placed a high value on education and spent much of his later life promoting high quality education and education institutions, including Glen Oaks. The award is administered through the Glen Oaks Foundation.

Outstanding Service Award – Julie Cottin

Julie Cottin, digital solutions administrator, is said to be extremely driven, eager to accept challenges and help people when they need help, and she is always looking for better ways to meet the needs of staff, faculty and students. She is the campus expert in a variety of software programs she manages at the college — and for the most part — she is self-taught. This requires an exceptional degree of self-start motivation and persistence. This drive results from a sincere desire to solve problems for the end user and to increase the ease and efficiency in which the college serves. She is also said to have the unique ability to transfer knowledge from one application to another and has the knack to foresee and anticipate issues so that she can address and respond to end users’ needs. Her work ethic is superior and she never hesitates to contribute to projects outside her own area.

Cottin joined Glen Oaks in 2016 as an instructional designer. She is a Sturgis High School graduate and studied at WMU where she received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting; a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture and a Master of Arts in Education Technology. She enjoys spending time with family, and her hobbies include photography and art, especially working with fused, mosaic and stained glass.

Fellows Award – Aaron Miller

Aaron Miller, of Sturgis, served as state representative for the 59th district for six years. While there, he was a tireless advocate for Glen Oaks as a member of the powerful Appropriations Committee. Today, he is a mortgage lender at Sturgis Bank and Trust in Sturgis.”

Miller graduated from Western Michigan University in 2010 with a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education and taught high school math in both Middlebury, Indiana, and Sturgis. He graduated from Bethel College—now Bethel University—with a Master of Education in School Administration in 2014. Above all, Miller loves to travel and see new places, especially in the Upper Peninsula. Along with his wife and three daughters, the Millers are said to have invented the term "Michiganing," which means “taking unplanned cheap road trips to new and exciting places all within our beautiful state.”

While having very little steady involvement with particular organizations over the last six years due to the nature of his position, Miller is now joining a few local boards and looks forward to continuing to serve his community.
Rod Lopez has taken to heart the college mission by serving on the GOCC Board of Trustees. He came to St. Joseph County in the mid-1990s as a teenager from Mexico in search of a better life. He had to learn English while finishing high school in Sturgis before advancing his education part-time at Glen Oaks while working full-time.

He received his Associate in Business in 2003 and went on to pursue both a bachelor’s and master’s degree from Davenport University in Kalamazoo.

Today, Lopez is an independent insurance agent at Preferred Insurance Service, of Sturgis, where he writes policies and works to find the best coverage and premium match for his clients. He sells policies for property loss including natural disasters and vandalism and provides customer support for his clients.

Lopez serves as secretary to the board and is a significant contributor to the oversite of the college. In addition, he participates and supports fundraisers in the Latino community in the St. Joseph County region. Lopez is a strong believer in family values and giving back to the community, and encourages others to do the same as he believes “a true community is one that stands together.” Rod, and his wife, Maribel, reside in Sturgis and have four grown children.

Nick Shultz started at Glen Oaks in 2020 and he teaches electrical/computer systems and engine performance classes for the Agricultural Technology program. He also teaches similar classes as an adjunct professor at Owens Community College in Toledo, Ohio.

Shultz is a retired faculty member from Owens, retiring in 2019. In 1996, his program was awarded the "Automotive Training Program of the Year" by the American Automotive Manufacturers Association, and he was awarded the "Most Outstanding Alumni" from Penta County Vocational Career Center in 2000.

Shultz served in the U.S. Army for four years where his highest rank was a staff sergeant.

He enjoys fishing and has canoed to the Arctic five times and rode his motorcycle from Brooklyn, Michigan to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska.

Alyssia Hudson-Grayer, of Adrian, Mich., is the 2021 recipient who received her Associate of Arts in May, graduating summa cum laude. She was a member of Epsilon Pi Tau, the International Honorary Society for Professionals in Technology, in recognition for high academic performance. She plans to pursue a degree in a science field or criminal justice. Her professors say she has sheer determination and a great work ethic that is rarely seen. Her dream job would be to join Ocean 4. In her spare time, she enjoys exercise and running and loves to learn new things.

Edna Yoder, of Shipshewana, Ind., the 2020 recipient, was also recognized during the 2020/2021 combined graduation ceremony. She was a non-traditional student who always wanted to be a nurse and received her Associate of Science in Nursing from Glen Oaks. Her professors say she worked extremely hard, always actively participated in class, and she was an excellent leader for the Nursing Class of 2020. She works in the Oncology Department at Goshen Health and says Glen Oaks provided her with a solid foundation. She is currently working on her bachelor’s of nursing with Indiana Wesleyan University.
Faculty, staff and the community celebrated two campus projects in an event called "Transformation X2," held in mid-November.

Guests took part in the launch of the E & F Wings Capital Outlay Renovation Project, which includes the E. J. Shaheen Learning Commons, art studio, and allied health and IT Labs. In addition, the complete exterior will be resided with a metal insulated panel system.

Following the capital outlay kickoff, guests joined in celebration of the grand reopening of the auto lab and the completion of the new welding technology labs — projects which have been in reconstruction since last spring.

"Both projects were included as part of the original $7.3 million state capital outlay plan submitted in 2018," said Dr. David H. Devier, Glen Oaks president. "This project encompassed the entire north side of campus."

"But we saw things change in 2020 as a result of the pandemic," said Devier. "Not only was the project put on hold by the state, but with the rising cost of building materials, it was expected to go over budget by $2.5 million. This forced us to reduce the scope of work."

A decision was soon made to remove the tech building work from the state project; however, it would move ahead with college funding instead.

And the work began in May. The interior was completely renovated into a new welding lab, while renovating the auto lab. The exterior of the building that houses both labs was completely resided with new insulated metal panels by James Ware Construction, of Sturgis.

"And with the help of generous donors, we were able to purchase and install 20 new welding booths, complete with vacuum systems through $87,500 in donations," said Devier. "Our Platinum sponsor donors stepped up to the tune of $20,000 and above. They are TH Plastics, Inc., Morgan Olson, and Mike Elliott, a retired St. Joseph County engineer. Sturgis Bank was our $10,000 Gold sponsor; and our Silver sponsors were Century Bank and Trust and the Paul H. Casault Senior Center Memorial Fund at Sturgis Area Community Foundation."

All updated electrical work has been carried out by Hi-Tech Electric, of Kalamazoo. New work bay tool cabinets were purchased for the auto lab as well as new student lockers and many new storage cabinets. Finally, exciting new graphic images were added to both the welding and automotive areas.
Michigan State Senator Kim LaSata and GOCC Board Chair Bruce Gosling, unveil the renditions of the state capital outlay project as part of the college’s “Transformation X2” event in mid-November.

Mitch Sheatham, Morgan Olson; Katlin Tissue, automotive student; Pat Haas, TH Plastics; Mike Elliott, retired SJC engineer; Lawrence O’Dell, former board member; Aaron Miller, Sturgis Bank; Eric Wynes, Century Bank and Trust; and Bayli Kendall, automotive student; take part in the ribbon cutting of the renovated auto lab and new welding lab.

Left: Aaron Miller, Sturgis Bank, and Tommy Cameron, CTE director for SJC Intermediate School District were two of about 40 guests attending the event.

Glen Oaks President Dr. David Devier visits with Vonda Marrow, GOCC Foundation director, and Mike Elliott, one of the donors for the new welding lab.

GOCC President Devier emcees the events of the day.

Jim Derosha, auto instructor, and Alyse Bannister, welding instructor, pose for a photo during the event.
Thanks to the generosity of several area entities, the welding technology lab on the Glen Oaks campus has been totally renovated.

Work was just completed on the $350,000 project, with $87,500 coming through donations to fund the cost of 20 new welding booths, complete with vacuum systems.

“Our Platinum sponsor donors stepped up to the tune of $20,000 and above,” said Dr. David H. Devier, Glen Oaks president. “They are TH Plastics, Inc., Morgan Olson, and Mike Elliott, a retired St. Joseph County engineer. Sturgis Bank was our $10,000 Gold sponsor; and our Silver sponsors were Century Bank and Trust and the Paul H. Casault Senior Center Memorial Fund at Sturgis Area Community Foundation.”

“There is a dire need for skilled welders today,” said Devier. “This was a great opportunity for the community to step up to support a program that houses both high school students in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs as well as our traditional college students pursuing welding certificates and associate degrees.”

Originally, the welding lab work was included as part of the state capital outlay project to renovate the whole north side of campus. However, the project was postponed due to the pandemic and in doing so the cost of materials had increased forcing the college to pull this portion of the project from the state’s scope of work.

“We appreciate the financial support of our community partners,” said Devier. “There was still a need for a viable training facility for students to learn the trade in the county. So, we made the call to move forward with it on our dime as soon as classes were out for the summer. Through the support of the community coming together to help fund the cost, we were able to complete it in less than six months to have it ready for students in mid-fall semester.”
WELDING TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY
(Dedication 1971; Renovation 2021)

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS

| PLATINUM    | TH PLASTICS, INC.                  |
|            | MORGAN OLSON, LLC                 |
|            | MIKE ELLIOTT                      |

| GOLD        | STURGIS BANK                      |

| SILVER      | CENTURY BANK AND TRUST            |
|            | THE PAUL H. CASAULT SENIOR CENTER MEMORIAL FUND AT STURGIS AREA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION |
Although Glen Oaks has coordinated the Motorcycle Safety Training course since 1998, this summer marked the first time the program was offered on the college’s campus.

“The state of Michigan requires new motorcyclists to complete a one-day ‘Basic Rider’ training program,” said Paul Aivars, GOCC director of business outreach. “White Pigeon High School was the first site for the range training portion for several years before it was transferred to the Sturgis Armory and then to Sturgis Public Schools through 2020.

“With the recent repaving of the main parking lot, the program moved to campus this past summer,” said Aivars. “Basic Rider classes are offered in one day, either on a Saturday or Sunday and include both classroom and rider components.”

“Classroom activities introduce the mental and perceptual processes needed to be a good rider and show participants how to process information and make safe decisions,” said Aivars. “The riding sessions have participants practice basic controls including clutch and throttle coordination, straight-line riding, stopping, turning, and shifting using the program’s motorcycles. Also included are quicker stops, curves, and swerves. It is important to have the fitness, strength, and coordination to learn well and manage the physical demands of riding a motorcycle.”

In order to complete the course, participants must pass a basic skills test to receive the Michigan endorsement.

Since its inception, hundreds of participants have been trained in operating a motorcycle safely and have earned their motorcycle endorsement on their license — which is now mandatory to ride in the State of Michigan.

Registration for the Motorcycle Safety program takes place in the early spring and due to the high demand, the program fills up fast.

“We are excited that we can serve as the host site for the program and look forward to many more years of training,” said Aivars.
In response to the demand for teachers nationwide, Glen Oaks has partnered with the St. Joseph County Career and Technical Education to support its new Teacher Education program.

“The teacher shortage is real, and continues to grow,” said Rob Kuhlman, director of institutional innovation at GOCC. “As we learned of the new countywide CTE Teacher Education track, we wanted to work with our CTE partners to see how we could become involved particularly in granting credits that will transfer to four-year institutions.”

“Together, we developed a course, designed to expose junior and senior high school students to the teaching profession,” said Kuhlman. “As part of the EDU 100 “Essentials of Education” course, students are in a classroom setting two days a week, and in lab classroom settings three days a week. Over the course of a semester, students experience three weeks each of lower elementary, upper elementary, middle school and high school classroom experience.”

The classroom-setting component provides students a hands-on reality experience that helps them determine the age-level of teaching that they want to pursue. All schools in St. Joseph County are represented in the program.

Teaching the course are two retired educators who are known throughout the county. They are Julie Evans, formerly an assistant superintendent at Sturgis Public Schools, and Chuck Frisbie, former superintendent at Constantine High School.

“We could not have dreamed about having two better people than Julie and Chuck to organize, implement, and teach the teacher academy classes,” said Tommy Cameron, director of career & technical education. “This class will help us fill a huge talent gap in our county and develop our own pipeline of teachers.”

In its inception year, there are 39 students in the program.

Those in the program who wish to work with students, but not necessarily as a K-12 teacher, can apply the course toward an early childhood assistant or child development associate certification.

Glen Oaks is currently working on articulation programs for transfer credit to both Grand Valley State University and Western Michigan University.
During an exceptionally challenging time, Glen Oaks Community College stepped up its leadership role in the community in more ways than it could have imagined. The Three Rivers Chamber of Commerce presented Glen Oaks with the Outstanding Community Award at its annual meeting.

During the start of the pandemic, when the college was forced to transition to online learning platforms, it didn’t take long to realize that many students had little or no access to the World Wide Web, as well as access to computers or laptops. The charge soon became one of helping these students grapple with technology issues.

“We procured a small number of hotspots, configured them, and began the distribution process,” said Dr. David Devier, Glen Oaks president. “With the purchase of an additional supply of laptops, we were able to supply one to each student who requested one. In some cases, where the laptops couldn’t handle the necessary software students were using, we handed out more powerful computers.”

In mid-June, the college opened its Pearson Vue testing center with social distancing and Glen Oaks was the only center open in at least 250 miles. Over the summer (and through mid-October), over 650 tests were proctored ranging from teacher certifications to secret service certifications and everything in between. In addition, the college proctored over 350 tests for faculty, over 50 placement tests and a number of tests for other colleges.

“As COVID-19 vaccines become available in the county, we welcomed the opportunity to serve as a host site for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency to administer the vaccines,” said Devier. “The agency accepted the offer and over 800 members of the community came out to receive their first and second doses of the vaccine in the spring.”

Glen Oaks made the call to stream the 2020/2021 graduation ceremony along with the nursing and allied health pinning ceremonies for family, friends and members of the community to view.

And, finally, Glen Oaks served as the command center for Consumers Energy, providing overnight accommodations for over 80 electrical workers and parking lot space for their vehicles as they worked to make repairs due to the severe storms which took down trees and power lines throughout the county in mid-August.

Throughout the pandemic, the college added new curriculum, served and supported students academically and beyond, in its continued mission of “Transforming Lives and Advancing Communities.”

Photo: Paul Aivars, director of business outreach, Dr. David Devier, GOCC president, and Val Juergens, executive director of communications and marketing, accepted both the Outstanding Community Service Award and the Brick Award for campus improvements, from Three Rivers Area Chamber of Commerce Chair Greg Moore at this year’s annual meeting.
The 2020/21 commencement ceremony was livestreamed for family and friends to enjoy. Consumes Energy trucks filled the campus parking lot as the college played host as a result of the severe mid-August storms resulting in extensive power outages throughout the county.

The May 2021 graduation ceremony, along with the nursing and allied health pinning ceremonies were live-streamed so that family and friends could view the event since many COVID-19 pandemic protocols were still in place. Allied Health students are pictured here as part of their pinning ceremony.

Elizabeth Datkovic, trustee, volunteers to help out at the college-hosted vaccine clinic. Ren Hartung, professor of science, receives his Covid-19 vaccine. The 2020/21 commencement ceremony was livestreamed for family and friends to enjoy.
Campus

Mentor program helps students navigate college

With the recent uptick in new students over the past year due to two state programs offering tuition-free college (Futures for Frontliners and Michigan Reconnect) it quickly became apparent that there was a need to reach out and offer support. Many had no college experience and quite a few were non-traditional students who were hesitant about their ability to navigate through the technicalities of an online course. And, like everyone else, they were also going through the uncertainties of a pandemic.

“At the time, our director of admissions shared her concerns with College Council, and members of the group stepped up to the task by creating a pilot mentoring program to reach out and offer our assistance to these students,” said Hannah Fries, TRIO advisor and coordinator of the program.

So, beginning in the Winter, 2021 semester — mentors were paired with mentees early on in the semester and 29 volunteers from the faculty, staff and GOCC Board began reaching out to over 118 students.

“Most of us started out the semester by getting to know our mentees,” said Fries. “We wanted to know more about them in order to help them – What was their major? Where were they from? Did they have a job? Did they have childcare issues?”

“Also, we wanted to catch any issues they were facing early on in the semester,” said Fries. “Although many of the mentees were comfortable with the college processes, there were a number of students who had questions surrounding financial aid information or setting up their My GOCC accounts or working through the Canvas online class platform.”

Mentors reminded students the types of services offered on campus such as the Learning Commons (Library and Tutoring and Testing Center), the Campus Cupboard food pantry, counseling, etc. The program continued for students enrolled during the summer semester.

“I had a mentee reach out to me because she felt she had bitten off more than she could chew,” said Jamie Yesh, director of human resources. “She was doing poorly in one class because she was working full-time, underestimating the workload, and was taking more than one class. She was in a panic about what to do. I was able to reassure her that we could figure this out and connected her with her advisor, who did a fantastic job of educating her on her options.”

“I have wanted a program like this for years,” said Leanne Steward, assistant director of financial aid & academic advisor. “I think the mentoring program can greatly help students by giving them “their person” to go to and just count on for help or venting or celebrating. I was told many times that just reaching out to check in helped my mentees and allowed them to know somebody cared and was in their corner. I would send my mentees little tips about self-care and taking a time out when needed. It was so important to me to make sure they all know I am here for them and willing to do what it takes for their success. Students are the reason we have jobs, and I love helping and watching them achieve their goals and dreams.”

This fall, there are 119 mentees assigned to 32 GOCC mentors. As each semester ends and a new semester starts, many continue to keep in contact with their mentors while new mentees are introduced and welcomed by their mentors.
Since the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic, Glen Oaks has received $1,692,302 in three separate rounds of emergency grant funds through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF).

CARES Grants
Shortly after students transitioned to remote learning in the spring of 2020, the college received $288,341 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds to be used as emergency aid for students negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“During this time many of our students were unemployed and struggled to meet basic needs,” said Tonya Howden, VP of student services. “Students had to meet a number of criteria in order to be eligible for these grants. We encouraged them to use the funds for food, transportation, childcare, healthcare, living expenses, and technology. We awarded 604 grants to 470 students over the course of three semesters.”

CRRSAA Grants
A second round of federal funds became available in January 2021 as the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSAA) Act was signed into effect. Also totaling $288,341, these funds required GOCC to prioritize grants for students with exceptional financial need, such as those receiving Pell grants.

“Historically, around fifty percent of our traditional student population receives Pell funding,” said Howden. “For this round of funding, we asked all students to apply for a grant and to provide detailed information to support financial hardships incurred as a result of the pandemic. Additionally, we considered the student’s Expected Family Contribution from the financial aid application (FAFSA) and the number of contact hours in which a student was enrolled to determine need. We were able to provide awards to 389 students through the CRRSAA funds.”

American Rescue Plan Grants
In the spring of 2021, the federal government rolled out the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act. Glen Oaks was awarded $1,115,620. All enrolled students, including those not eligible for Title IV financial aid, were eligible to receive emergency grants.

At the beginning of the fall semester, Glen Oaks opened applications for textbook assistance grants, allowing eligible students to apply for a $250 textbook voucher or reimbursement for textbooks already purchased for the fall. Two-hundred seventeen (217) students applied for and received these grants.

By the end of Fall 2021 semester, Glen Oaks disbursed over $625,000 in grants to 1,063 students as part of this fund. With more flexibility in ARP eligibility requirements, all post-secondary enrolled students received a minimum of $378, the cost of a three-contact-hour course. Others received an additional award based on their financial need as determined by the FAFSA, information provided on the application, and the number of contact hours enrolled. Glen Oaks also recognized that, though the local school districts pay tuition, mandatory fees, and textbooks for dual enrolled students, many of our high school students still incur costs of travel, food and technology. Each of those students received a small grant based on the number of contact hours enrolled.

“Ultimately, our overall goal is for our students to persist to degree completion,” said Howden. “By relieving some of the financial barriers, students are on a better path to achieving success.”

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Left Photo: Although mentors and mentees often meet virtually, Jason Hall, of Indianapolis, Indiana, is pictured with his mentor Jaime Raifsnider, who is also a TRIO project advisor. Jason is working toward his Associate of Applied Science in Business with an emphasis on management and marketing. Hall also plays on the men’s basketball team.
Addy Cooper is picking up where she left off in pursuing her education after starting three years ago. And as an "essential" worker during the pandemic, her classes are being paid for through Michigan’s Futures for Frontliners program.

Cooper, a 24-year-old, from Three Rivers, works full-time as an office coordinator for a medical imaging firm. Currently, she is taking her last two credit hours of prerequisite courses necessary to get into the college’s nursing program.

“I started taking face-to-face classes in the fall of 2020, but in the end they all were moved to an online format,” said Cooper. “I panicked because I had no idea how to proceed and remember calling my sister, who is five years younger than me, and asked for her help in figuring it all out.”

“And she pretty much laughed through it all — trying to convince me that online courses are super easy,” said Cooper. “But there really is a night and day difference. I’ve adjusted very well. It definitely has perks that’s for sure.”

Cooper’s career plans? “I like a fast-paced environment – perhaps working as an emergency room nurse would be a good fit for me? I have lots of friends and cousins who are nurses, so I have good insight as to what I’m getting myself into,”

Advice for today’s students? “Just do it,” says Cooper. “I pondered over continuing my education for two years. The Futures for Frontliner’s program was too good not to pass up.”
Sturgis native will complete associate program - tuition free

Jennifer VanWagner, of Sturgis, never expected to complete her associate degree. But she made a life-changing decision last year to enroll in classes at Glen Oaks as part of Michigan’s Futures for Frontliners program that offers free tuition to residents who worked the frontlines during the pandemic.

VanWagner, a 10-year employee who works as an account specialist for Preferred Insurance, in Sturgis, was an essential worker who worked every day from the start of the pandemic — never once converting to remote work from home.

A married, mother of three grown boys, the youngest who is 18, VanWagner learned about the Futures for Frontliners program from co-worker Rod Lopez, who serves on the Glen Oaks Board of Trustees.

“For me, this was a great opportunity to pick up where I left off,” said VanWagner. “I graduated from high school in 1995 with a son. Then after having been through a divorce and with two sons, I started school at Glen Oaks in 2000 – at the time I was studying accounting.”

VanWagner met her husband, Chad, while at Glen Oaks. “I was able to get a few credit hours in before having a third son. At that time, it became too much, and I ended up quitting school to raise my sons.”

Fast forward 20 years later to 2021 — “When Rod mentioned this opportunity to me — I decided to give it a try,” said VanWagner. “So beginning last January, this full-time mom, and full-time wife, with a full-time job – became a student.”

VanWagner is working toward her Associate of Applied Science in Business degree with a Marketing/Management certificate. She should have enough credits to “walk the stage” in May and finish her coursework over the summer.

“It’s been a huge adjustment,” said VanWagner. “My son is active in sports and I love to be at all his events, but I had to learn to say no to some things. I had to step back from some of my mom and wife responsibilities. I have to admit at first there was a lot of ‘mom-guilt; and ‘wife-guilt; but thankfully I have a very supportive family.”

“All of my classes have been online – and, although I really would have preferred being in the classroom, I had to figure a lot of things out on my own – often referring to YouTube for help.”

VanWagner also credits the invaluable support she received from her academic advisor, Leanne Steward, and from Tonya Howden, VP of student services, for helping her out with an English class.

“I love my job and the people I work with, and I plan to stay at Preferred Insurance,” said VanWagner, “but this is such a huge accomplishment for me to achieve. I’m doing it for me, but I am also doing it for my father who I lost five years ago. I made a promise to him when I was young and now I have an opportunity to make that promise happen. I know he is not here to watch me walk the stage and receive my degree, but I know he has been with me along the way and he is proud of me. I also feel as if I am setting an example for my 18-year-old son, who previously wasn’t that interested in college; but he is now looking into it.”

“For me, this was a great opportunity to pick up where I left off.”
The Glen Oaks Community College Foundation Board of Directors unveiled its newly installed Athletic Academic Recognition Wall in late October in the lobby of Ken Schuler Court on the Glen Oaks campus. The wall features a display of panels listing Glen Oaks student-athletes who achieved academic recognition during their time on campus as designated by the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) and the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA). There are more than 100 names on the panels since the organizations began keeping records back in the 1990s.

The wall was made possible through the generosity of Anne and Jim Freiburger, of Colon. The Freiburgers approached the Foundation in 2019 about creating a way to recognize student-athletes for their academic achievements; hence, the development of the wall.

The idea for the project came to the Freiburgers as they watched their grandson, Nicholas Keller, play baseball at Glen Oaks. When Nick achieved Academic All-State status, the Freiburgers realized nothing was in place to recognize students who achieve academic and athletic success.

“We would like to thank Glen Oaks for embracing this project and encourage others who may have ideas to benefit the school to contact them,” said Jim Freiberger. “They have been very supportive and enjoyable to work with on this project.”

The Freiburgers had seen this type of recognition wall at other community colleges and thought it was a great way to acknowledge student-athlete achievement off the playing field. They also believed that as students are being recruited, parents seeing academics as a priority at Glen Oaks would be an excellent recruiting tool for the athletic program.

During the two years the Freiburgers were part of the Glen Oaks athletics family, they gained first-hand knowledge of what the opportunity to attend Glen Oaks could provide for students. They established an endowed scholarship with the Glen Oaks Foundation. The Freiburger-Keller Families Scholarship pays for their tuition, fees, books and supplies. Since it began, the Freiburgers have helped numerous students pursue their educational goals.

Additionally, Jim joined the Foundation Board of Directors in 2017. He is in his second term and serves on the Scholarship and Nominating Committees.
The Glen Oaks Foundation Alumni Committee wants you, our alumni. We want to share news on the current happenings on the campus. We want to provide you opportunities to engage with the college and share your stories with other alumni. To accomplish these things, we need to be able to communicate with you.

Over the summer, the Alumni Committee started collecting updated contact information with tables at local community events. We encouraged alumni to participate by offering them chance at a basket of Glen Oaks swag. The response was very positive. We followed up the events with a quick e-mail sharing information. The response has just gotten better.

We asked ourselves what we can do now to reach more alumni. We knew Glen Oaks swag would be an incentive to get alumni to respond. The answer — alumni t-shirts. When we realized that there were not t-shirts specifically for alumni readily available, one was created. Thank you to our marketing department for the design and getting them produced.

Alumni can receive the t-shirt by updating their contact information. How do you do this? The easiest way is through the form on our website under the Alumni & Friends tab, the link is on the right hand side of the page.

Once we receive the updated information, we will send your t-shirt. The Alumni Committee would like for you to take a photo of yourself wearing your t-shirt and post it on the college’s Facebook page with a message about your favorite memory while you were at Glen Oaks. We can’t wait to see all those messages.

Anyone who has questions, please contact the Foundation Office at 269.294.4384.

The Glen Oaks Community College Foundation Board of Directors

When you shop AmazonSmile, 0.5% of your eligible purchases are donated to Glen Oaks. AmazonSmile offers the same products, low prices and services as Amazon.com. There is no additional cost to you beyond the item’s purchase price. This is a great way to effortlessly support Glen Oaks.

Sign up using this link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/38-2285489. Follow the prompts and begin shopping to benefit Glen Oaks. Donations from your eligible purchases will be calculated automatically and sent to Glen Oaks quarterly.

Donations received from the AmazonSmile program are used by the Glen Oaks Community College Foundation to support students, grow programs and improve facilities. Contact the Foundation at 269.294.4383 if you have any questions.
Rasmussen joins college as athletic director

Mike Rasmussen joined Glen Oaks in late summer as the new athletic director. He was previously the Jr./Sr. high school principal at Colon High School. Prior to that, he was the athletic director at White Pigeon Community Schools.

Rasmussen is a Glen Oaks graduate who was selected as the President’s Award recipient in 2001. While at Glen Oaks, he played baseball and was part of the team that was third in the NJCAA national tournament in 2000.

A native of Schoolcraft, Rasmussen is a graduate of Western Michigan University where he earned both a bachelor’s and master’s in education. He began his career as a teacher and coach at Greenville High School in Greenville, Michigan.
NEW COACHES
Hope to Raise Bar

Four new coaches have taken the helm over the past several months. They are Michael Elliott, of Indianapolis, Ind., men’s head basketball coach; Michael Slancik, of Portage, Mich., women’s softball coach; Robbie Hatten, women’s head basketball coach; and William Smith, of Sturgis, head bowling coach.

Elliott previously served as the assistant basketball coach at Anderson University. His coaching experience included several high schools in both Indiana and Georgia and he has also served in athletic director roles. Elliott is an alumnus of Glen Oaks where he received an Associate of Science in Business. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in Arts and Humanities from Indiana University—Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI). He played basketball for the Vikings during the 1990s.

Hatten previously coached the head varsity women’s basketball coach at Colon High School where he led the team to back-to-back district championships in 2020 and 2021. He is also the head football coach at Colon. Hatten has coached football and women’s basketball for over 11 years growing the women’s basketball program at Colon over the past four years both in athletic participation and in wins.

Slancik recently served as interim coach for Viking softball. He previously coached softball at Vicksburg High School and has coached several fast-pitch travel teams as well as a number of baseball travel teams. Slancik has a Master in Criminal Justice Administration and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, both from Ferris State University. He also earned a Liberal Arts Associate from Delta College. Slancik currently teaches criminal justice classes at the college.

Smith will coach the newly formed Viking bowling team. He is the owner and operator of Bad-Boys Pro-Shop, in Bronson, which specializes in bowling balls, shoes, accessories and custom fit drilling. Smith has served as the bowling coach for both Sturgis High School and Junior Varsity teams.
Glen Oaks will be hosting a study abroad program to Italy in May, 2022 and we’d love for you to join!

Space is limited.

$95.00 deposit to enroll

Want to learn more? Contact our support team at 877-485-4184 or Michael Northrop mnorthrop@glenoaks.edu 269.294.4277
GLEN OAKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Statements of Net Position

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The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.