



# ALUMNI NEWS

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY MERCY COLLEGE OF OHIO

## 2022 AWARDS

- Distinguished Graduate Award
- Mercy College Advocate Award

### NOW ACCEPTING 2022 AWARD NOMINATIONS

We know our alumni and friends do incredible things, so share the accomplishments of your fellow classmates, supporters of Mercy College, or even your own!

Sponsored by the [Mercy Alumni Association](#) and Alumni Department, Awards Categories include:

- Distinguished Graduate Award
- Mercy College Advocate Award

The [Distinguished Graduate Award](#) is presented each year to Mercy's most accomplished, driven, and extraordinary graduates. The Award recognizes and honors the humanitarian, professional, and philanthropic accomplishments of Mercy alumni, who, through leadership, character, and hard work, have made exceptional contributions in their profession, in their communities, and at the College.

The [Mercy College Advocate Award](#) aims to acknowledge those who have significantly impacted the growth and development and/or advancement of Mercy College of Ohio and its Alumni Association. These individuals (alumni, faculty, staff, administration, current student, or friend of Mercy College) must display commitment to support the efforts at Mercy College of Ohio to benefit the students and the organization.

The Mercy Alumni Department can be reached at [alumni@mercycollege.edu](mailto:alumni@mercycollege.edu) or 419-251-8993.



### #1 BEST ASSOCIATE DEGREE COLLEGE IN OHIO

Mercy College has been [ranked #1 for Best Associate Degree College in Ohio](#) by University Headquarters (University HQ).

Associate Degrees offered at Mercy College:

- [Health Information Technology](#)
- [Health Sciences](#)
- [Nursing – Day Classes](#)

- [Nursing – Evening/Weekend Classes](#)
- [Radiologic Technology](#)

“Ohio has some of the best associate degrees available for students who are just graduating from high school or who have been working for a while and now want to elevate their credentials.” – University HQ.

[Learn more about this recognition!](#) Speak with [Admissions](#) about the programs offered at Mercy College.



#### **CONNECT WITH THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION FOR VOLUNTEER EVENTS**

Alumni and Friends of the College are encouraged to connect with the Alumni Association at various [volunteer events](#) in the coming months:

Thursday, February 24 at 7pm - Jeff Dunham  
 Sunday, April 3 at 5:15pm - Walleye vs Kalamazoo  
 Wednesday, April 20 at 7pm - Chris Stapleton

\*All events take place at the Huntington Center in Toledo, OH. [Sign up here.](#)

Questions about volunteering? Contact Hannah Bohn- Coordinator of Alumni Relations/Grants at [alumni@mercycollege.edu](mailto:alumni@mercycollege.edu) or text at 419-863-5520.



#### **EMPOWER TWO-FACTOR AUTHENTICATION COMING FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

Two-factor authentication will be enabled in both the Empower Me website and the Empower client on February 1, 2022 to provide an additional layer of security beyond just a username and password. All users of Empower will be impacted, including faculty, staff, students, prospective students, and alumni. You will still sign in to Empower as usual with your username and password, but then Empower will send an email to your personal email address with a security code. You will need to enter that security code into the security validation screen in Empower to complete the sign in process. To ensure a smooth sign in experience, please take a moment to verify your personal email address in Empower in advance by using the “Update Personal Information” option in Empower Me. If you do not have a personal email address on file in Empower, it will fall back to using your Mercy College email address. Please call the Mercy College Information Technology team at 419-251-9898 for assistance with two-factor authentication issues.

For alumni, Empower can be used to:

- Update your contact information with the Alumni Association
- Request transcripts (official or unofficial)
- View holds, the academic calendar, or the faculty/staff directory
- Access your tuition account summary and 1098-T

## Student Loan Payments to Restart After May 1, 2022

### FEDERAL STUDENT LOAN PAYMENT PAUSE EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 1, 2022

On December 22, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education extended the student loan payment pause through May 1, 2022. The pause includes the following relief measures for [eligible loans](#):

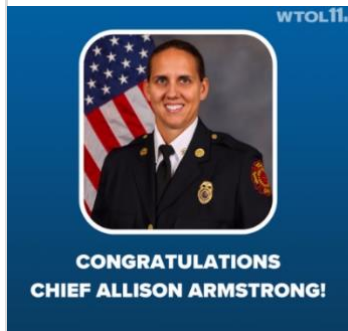
- A suspension of loan payments
- A 0% interest rate
- Stopped collections on defaulted loans

Federal student loan borrowers are encouraged to use the additional time to:

- Ensure their contact information is up to date
- Consider enrolling in auto-debit
- Make sure they are on the best repayment plan for their current situation

Borrowers can find the most up-to-date information [here](#). The U.S. Department of Education is holding a webinar on February 23, 2022; 2-3p.m. ET. This webinar is intended for stakeholders and key partners and will provide information on how borrowers can prepare for the end of the payment pause.

Additionally, stay tuned for upcoming updates to the [Return to Repayment Toolkit](#).



### Allison Armstrong '15 – ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to Mercy alum Allison Armstrong on being named the new Chief of the Toledo Fire & Rescue Department (TFD)! Armstrong earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Mercy in 2015. She joined the TFD in July 2000, was promoted to lieutenant in 2010, captain in 2011, and battalion chief in 2019.

Battalion Chief Allison Armstrong will begin her first day as chief on February 4, 2022. "I feel honored, I feel grateful," Armstrong said. "I'm excited to be a mentor to girls and young women. I think it helps when they see someone in these positions, and they realize they can do this and it's not just for boys... I believe public service is a privilege and a calling," she said. "I feel blessed to enjoy my job and serve the citizens of Toledo. I look forward to this amazing opportunity and starting this next chapter of my career."

The online [Bachelor of Science in Nursing Completion](#) (RN to BSN) program is offered to those who already have an RN license and hold either an AND or ASN in nursing. The RN to BSN program offers all core nursing courses online and is designed for the working nurse. Start at any time, with program launches in the spring (January), summer (May), and fall (August) semesters.

Students pursuing the RN to BSN program now also have the option to take one or more (maximum of six credit-hours) 500 level graduate courses at the undergraduate tuition rate. The course options are part of the Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) program. [Learn more about the MSN fast-track option](#).

Photo Credit and text from WTOL 11 Toledo. [Read the full story](#) from WTOL.

Learn more about the [RN to BSN Program](#).

We're proud of the ambitions and accomplishments of our students and alumni. Each month, current students and/or alumni will be recognized. Tell us your Mercy story. Please email suggested names to [Alumni@mercycollege.edu](mailto:Alumni@mercycollege.edu) or complete a nomination form [here](#).

**Peer-nominations and self-nominations are accepted.**

The Mercy College of Ohio Alumni Department is committed and focused on providing Mercy alumni an experience that is informative, engaging, and fun! We're there for you whether you're enjoying one of our alumni events or supporting Mercy as a volunteer.

Your Alumni Department goes the extra mile to keep you informed.

Your Mercy Pride is ours as well – To ensure this newsletter is as informational as possible, please send your comments and article submissions to:

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Toledo, OH 43604

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