Lakeland
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

STATE OF THE COLLEGE
2025

www.lakelandcc.edu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Lakeland Friends,

It has been just over a year since I officially assumed Lakeland's presidency. I am still thrilled to be here, and love my job and the community. I am humbled and honored to lead Lakeland, and I do not take this responsibility lightly. With this major milestone in my presidency, we have made significant changes and progress at the College in the last year.

Key Accomplishments Include:

- Financial sustainability: from deficit to balanced and surplus budget (with additions to College reserves) in one year
- Enrollment stability: from 44% drop in enrollment over the last decade to projected increases
- State auditor's report: completed over half of the 10 items flagged by the auditor
- Higher Learning Commission's review: from 10 items of concern and a sanction recommendation to five items of concern and no sanction
- Facilities: sale of the Holden University Center and reopening of the Breakers cafeteria
- Organizational structure: right-sized the organization and streamlined staffing for a flatter structure
- Rebalance resources: reinvested portion of cost savings toward student support services and enrollment management connected to growth, retention, and institutional reputation

This is only the beginning. As we look to the future, we will reach a major milestone in the College's history in 2027, when Lakeland will celebrate its 60th anniversary. Toward that end, we have established a strategic direction for the next several years under the theme of *Lakeland at 60: Resilient, Responsive, and Relevant.* We have developed data-driven key performance indicators as benchmarks and metrics to guide and judge our work in finances, enrollment and student success, workforce development and community engagement, facilities, and philanthropy. As I have stated previously, we need to reset, reshape, and rebuild Lakeland for a sustainable future, and success on these KPIs will lead to long-term sustainability. I have come to know many of you over the last year, and I look forward to meeting and working with many more of you in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support and well wishes for Lakeland Community College.

With Appreciation,
Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D., President

LAKELAND'S PROGRESS

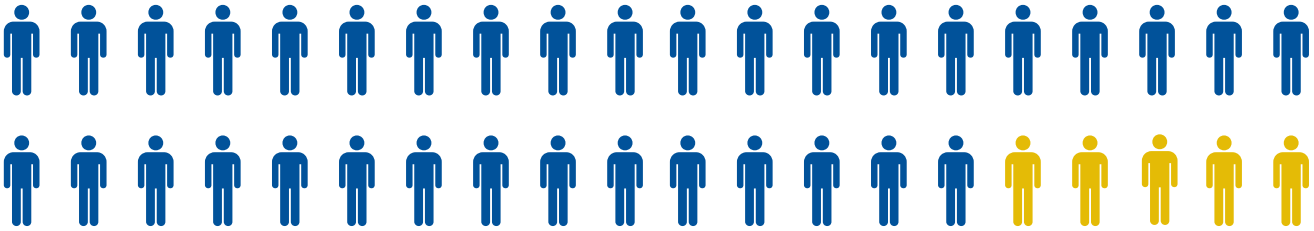
ENROLLMENT

+6.3%

* First day enrollment in Fall 2025 compared to Fall 2024

ENROLLMENT INCREASE

With an increase from 4,556 students in Fall 2024 to 4,843 in Fall 2025, Lakeland has achieved its first enrollment increase in a decade.



BUDGET

+$4,776,250

LAKELAND'S BUDGET

Lakeland Community College experienced a positive swing of $4,776,250, moving from an operating deficit of -$2,383,118 in fiscal year 2024 to a projected surplus of +$2,393,132 in fiscal year 2025.

GENERAL OPERATING FUND

-$2.4

MILLION

Lakeland's operating budget in fiscal year 2024.

+$2.4

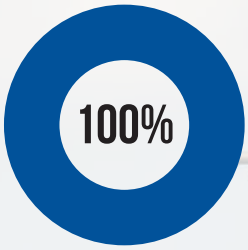
MILLION

Lakeland's projected operating budget in fiscal year 2025.

LAKELAND'S PROGRESS

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATE PASS RATES

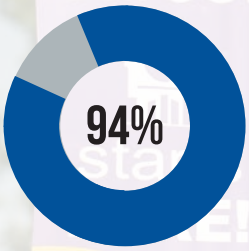
Dental Hygiene



Health Information Management Technology

Radiology

Surgical Technology



Nursing

As of Sept. 3, 2025

ENGINEERING & WORKFORCE EXPANSION

This year marks a major milestone with the completion of the Engineering Building at Lakeland Community College. The project, which includes a 14,484 square-foot addition and renovation of 35,089 square feet of existing space, is the first major expansion to the college's engineering facilities since Lakeland's initial construction.

The modernized Engineering Building will provide laboratories and industry technologies, meeting a crucial need for skilled workers in Northeast Ohio's advanced manufacturing and engineering industries. The project will allow Lakeland to implement welding robotics, metrology, and metallurgy, fulfilling educational demand currently unmet in the region.

The expansion will serve the students and strengthen the regional workforce, building pathways to careers, innovation, and economic growth for the Lakeland community.

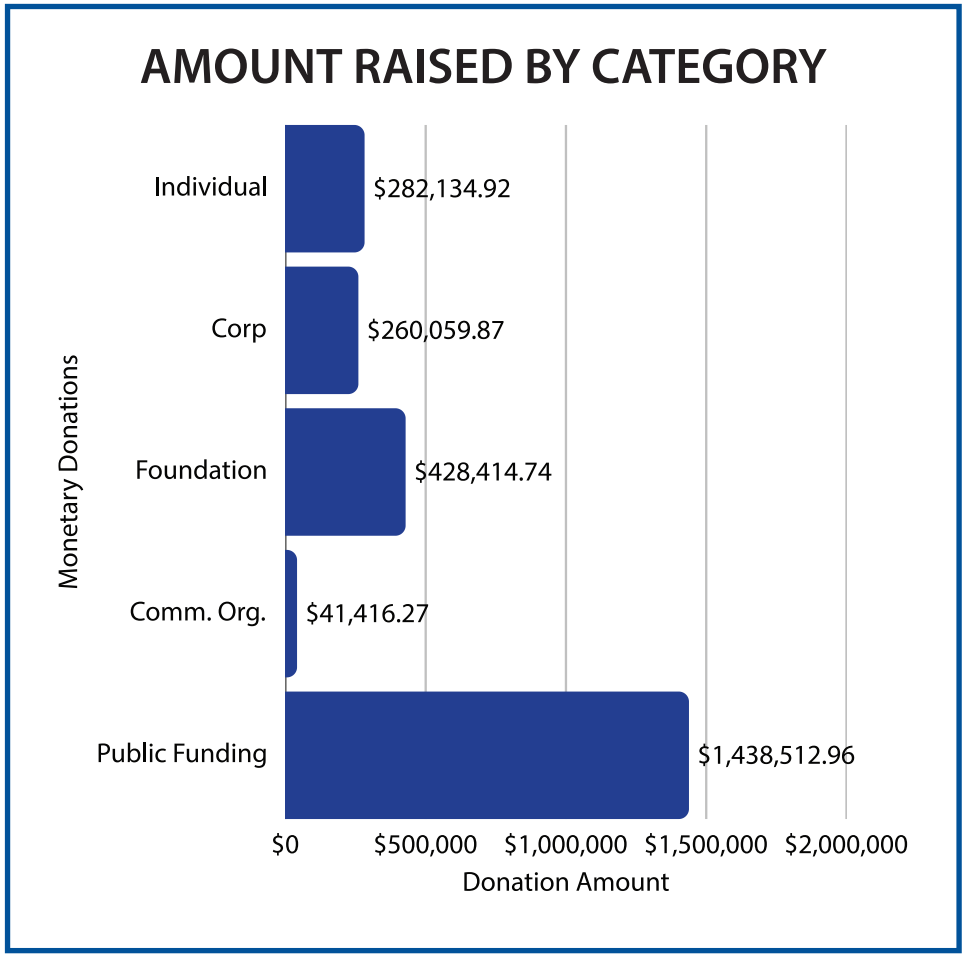
THE LAKELAND FOUNDATION

The Lakeland Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 1982 as the fundraising entity for Lakeland Community College. Gifts made to The Lakeland Foundation support the programs, initiatives, and priorities of Lakeland Community College and are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

AMOUNT RAISED

FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025

$2,450,538.76



ATHLETICS

Lakeland Community College student-athletes excelled both academically and athletically during the 2024-2025 season.

Academically, Lakeland's student-athletes earned an impressive total of 49 Ohio Community College Athletic Conference (OCCAC) All-Academic awards throughout the year. This included 22 certificates in the Fall semester and an additional 27 in the Spring.

Eight Lakeland student-athletes qualified for National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic All-American honors by maintaining an overall GPA of 3.6 or higher for both semesters. The Lakeland volleyball team was also recognized, earning Academic All-American status for achieving a collective GPA of 3.0 or better over both semesters.

On the pitch, the men's soccer team delivered a respectable six-win season, highlighted by sophomore Omar Inga being named the OCCAC Men's Soccer Player of the Year. Inga was further recognized alongside teammate Byron Perez, as both earned spots on the All-OCCAC First Team.

Lakeland made its mark in the world of esports, with sophomore Till Oppermann achieving significant success. Oppermann not only clinched the title of NJCAA FIFA25 East District Champion but also advanced to the national semifinal round in the playoffs.

Both the Lakeland men's and women's basketball teams secured postseason berths, advancing to the 2025 NJCAA Great Lakes District C Championship tournament. The Laker men concluded their campaign with a strong 19-8 record, extending their impressive streak to a sixth consecutive winning season. Not to be outdone, the Laker women's team demonstrated remarkable resilience, finishing with a balanced 12-12 record, marking their seventh straight season at .500 or better.

On the diamond, Lakeland baseball demonstrated a successful 15-win season, highlighted by several standout performances by sophomore pitcher Jackson Smith. Smith's consistent play on the mound earned him two OCCAC Player of the Week honors throughout the season.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

"I am honored to serve as Chair of the Board of Trustees at Lakeland Community College. Working with the new administration, we have made significant progress over the last year on items crucial for the College's success: enrollment, financial sustainability, accreditation, facilities management, and personnel. Our most important purpose is to serve the students. I am excited to be part of Lakeland's transformative journey in the service to our students and the vibrancy of our community. Lakeland Community College is a vital institution in Lake County, and all of us on the Board look forward to its continued progress toward a strong and sustainable future to serve the residents of Lake County and beyond."

- *Paul L. Rupert, Chair, Board of Trustees*

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PRESIDENT'S CABINET

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President

David Cummins
Vice President for Administrative Services and College Treasurer

Jennifer Collis, Ph.D.
Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Retention Services

John Crooks, Ph.D.
Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs

Rick Penny
Chief Information Officer

Lakeland
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MISSION

To provide quality learning opportunities to meet the social and economic needs of the community.

VISION

To be the best in creating quality learning opportunities.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The institution declares that it will educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth.

The institution declares that its duty is to equip students with the opportunity to develop the intellectual skills they need to reach their own, informed conclusions.

The institution declares its commitment to not requiring, favoring, disfavoring, or prohibiting speech or lawful assembly.

The institution declares it is committed to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the autonomy of each member, supports individual capacities for growth,
and tolerates the differences in opinion that naturally occur in a public higher education community.

The institution declares that its duty is to treat all faculty, staff, and students as individuals, to hold them to equal standards, and to provide them equality of opportunity, with regard to those individuals' race, ethnicity, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.