



2026 IUC Military-Connected Student Symposium

THANK YOU to our Panelists and Moderators:



Laura Lanese

President and CEO, Inter-University Council of Ohio

Laura has been President and CEO of the Inter-University Council of Ohio since December 2022 and advocates on behalf of the IUC's Presidents' Council, comprising the presidents of Ohio's 14 public universities. Prior to joining the IUC, Laura was a leader and a member of the Ohio House of Representatives, where she served as Assistant Majority Whip and Chair of the Higher Education Committee. Additionally, Laura worked as an Assistant Attorney General with the US Department of Justice and as an attorney with the US District Court. She also served in both the Ohio Air National Guard and the US Army Reserve. Laura received her LLM from Georgetown University, her JD from The Ohio State University, and her BA from Miami University. She is the author of four books, one on Ohio State football and three on local history. She and her husband Mike live in central Ohio and have three adult children.



Bill Johnson

President, Youngstown State University

Bill Johnson began his tenure as the 10th President of Youngstown State University in January 2024. President Johnson has a wealth of leadership experience spanning impactful roles in various and diverse industry sectors, from a very humble beginning on a rural family farm to a distinguished 26+ year military career in the United States Air Force, to founding and leading successful high-tech business ventures, to serving as a Chief Information Officer for a global publicly traded manufacturing company, to a 13-year career serving as a Member of the United States Congress representing Ohio's 6th Congressional District.

President Johnson's interests and dedication to investing in the next generation align with the university's focus on securing a sustainable future for YSU and leveraging the institution's strengths in emerging technologies, academic excellence, workforce education, and innovation. President Johnson and his wife, LeeAnn, have a son, Nathan, who is an undergraduate at Youngstown State University.

Session 1: Service to Campus



Facilitator: Kevin Cullen

Colonel, US Air Force (Retired); Assistant Vice Provost & Director, Military & Veterans Services, The Ohio State University

Kevin P. Cullen, Colonel, US Air Force (Retired) is Ohio State University's Assistant Vice Provost and Director for Military & Veterans Services supporting the 2,300+ military, veteran, and family member students attending the university, including the Navy/Marine, Army, and Air Force/Space Force ROTC units. Prior to his military transition, he served as Ohio State's Department Chair for Aerospace Studies and the Commander of the Air Force ROTC Detachment 645. Additionally, Kevin consults for Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory as a Senior Professional Staff Strategic Systems Analyst specializing in nuclear operations.



Michael Carlisle
Cleveland State University, Student & Veteran

Michael Carlisle is a U.S. Army veteran, media professional, and graduate of Cleveland State University. During his military service, he served as an RQ-7B Shadow Unmanned Aircraft Systems operator and instructor, supporting operations in Afghanistan and training future soldiers. After transitioning from the military, Michael pursued a degree in Interactive Media at Cleveland State University, where he focused on digital storytelling, sports media, and content production. He is the founder of No Sleeves Network, a veteran-owned media company dedicated to creating authentic conversations and bridging the gap between military and civilian communities through sports, storytelling, and shared experiences. Michael remains passionate about supporting fellow veterans and helping military-connected students navigate the transition from service to higher education and civilian careers.

Mariel Davidson
University of Toledo, Student & Veteran

Mariel Davidson is a senior at the University of Toledo pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Medical Laboratory Science. She is also a U.S. Army veteran.



Josh Davis
The Ohio State University, Student & Veteran

Joshua Davis is a third-year student at The Ohio State University pursuing a bachelor's degree in international studies with a concentration in Security and Intelligence, while also completing a second bachelor's degree. He is expected to graduate with his bachelor's degrees in Spring 2027 and plans to continue his education through a master's program, with an anticipated graduation in Spring 2028.

Joshua serves in the Ohio Army National Guard as a Combat Engineer and is the President of the Student Veterans Association at Ohio State, where he leads initiatives that support military-connected students. He also advocates for veterans through Hilliard VFW Post 4931, gaining valuable experience in leadership, community engagement, and organizational collaboration.

Passionate about service and leadership, Joshua hopes to build a career supporting military and veteran communities through public service or nonprofit organizations. His experiences have strengthened his commitment to helping others and creating positive change in the communities he serves.

Session 2: Military-Connected Students on Campus



Facilitator: J.P. Nauseef
President & CEO, JobsOhio

J.P. Nauseef is the president and chief investment officer of JobsOhio, the private nonprofit organization responsible for driving job creation and economic development across Ohio. A former U.S. Air Force officer, entrepreneur, and economic development leader, he has held executive roles in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors, including serving as president and CEO of the Dayton Development Coalition.

Nauseef is also a longtime advocate for military members, veterans, and their families through organizations such as the Military Heroes Foundation. He holds degrees from the University of Dayton and the University of Southern California and is widely recognized for his leadership in economic development and community service.



Robin Johnson
Senior Manager, Military-Connected & Veteran Program, The Boeing Company

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Robin Johnson leads Boeing's Military-Connected and Veteran Program, building enterprise-wide pathways for veterans, service members, and military spouses to join and advance at Boeing. A 20+ year Army veteran with five combat deployments and command experience, she helped shape DoD SkillBridge policy and other initiatives expanding career opportunities for transitioning military talent.

Robin is a graduate of THE Ohio State University, Webster University, and a Hoover Institution Veteran Fellow at Stanford University. In her spare time, she co-chairs the U.S. Chamber's Military Spouse Employment Advisory Council and tours internationally as a speaker and stand-up comedian.



Tri Tang

Head of Veteran and Community Engagement, Andruil

Tri Tang is the Head of Veteran and Community Engagement, where he drives CSR programs, veteran hiring, and community engagement. With a background as an enlisted Army intel analyst, he brings operational and strategic leadership experience from Palantir, Flexport, and more recently running Global Facilities for Anduril.



Major General John Harris, Jr.

Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services

Maj. Gen. (U.S. Army, retired) John C. Harris Jr. was appointed as the Director of the Ohio Department of Veterans Services by Governor Mike DeWine and assumed his new leadership duties on June 1, 2025.

General Harris brings decades of distinguished military service to this vital statewide role, where he now leads efforts to support Ohio’s nearly 700,000 veterans and their families.

He previously served as the Ohio Adjutant General from 2019 to 2025, commanding the state’s Army and Air National Guard, Military Reserve, and Naval Militia – a force of nearly 17,000 personnel. A veteran of both domestic missions and overseas deployments – including leading Task Force Lancer in Kosovo – he is a proven leader, aviator, and advocate.

After 44 years in uniform, the Director continues to serve with integrity and purpose, ensuring Ohio veterans of all backgrounds, eras, and branches of service receive the care, recognition, and opportunities they have earned.

Session 3: Leadership Panel- Serving Those Who Serve



Facilitator: Mike Carrell

Chief Operating Officer, National Veterans Leadership Foundation

Mike Carrell is the Chief Operating Officer for the National Veterans Leadership Foundation. Here he is responsible for all operations, administration, and engagement with universities across the nation—He has grown the organization to now working with 85 colleges from east to coast. Previously he completed a successful Air Force career in Air Operations, operational planning, headquarters staff, and education, retiring as a Colonel.

Following his military career, Carrell developed and launched Ohio State University’s Military and Veterans Office which is a top-tier national exemplar (rated #1 in the nation for two years). He was also instrumental in building cross-university organizations as the founder of the Ohio Veteran Education Council and the Big 10’s Military Office Alliance. Carrell worked closely with state leaders to develop, and co-chair, the Ohio Department of Higher Education’s Military Strategic Implementation Team (MSIT) to promote policy and programs for military members and their families across all 36 public institutions. In addition, Carrell served as a senior academic administrator, professor, and department chair at Ohio State.



Rodney Rogers

President, Bowling Green State University

Dr. Rodney K. Rogers is the 12th president of Bowling Green State University and the first alumnus to serve in the role. Since becoming president in 2018, he has led significant growth in enrollment, student success, academic innovation, fundraising, and campus development, while advancing BGSU’s mission as a leading public university. Previously, he served as BGSU’s provost and dean of the Schmidhorst College of Business

and has held academic leadership positions at Portland State University. A certified public accountant by training, Rogers holds an MBA from Bowling Green State University and a Ph.D. from Case Western Reserve University and is widely recognized for his leadership in higher education across Ohio and the nation.



Susan Edwards
President, Wright State University

As president of Wright State University, Dr. Edwards is committed to ensuring that her students have every opportunity to combine academic knowledge & experiential learning, directly linking them to employment opportunities. She collaborates closely with Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and regional military contractors to ensure a seamless workforce pipeline.

Bill Johnson
President, Youngstown State

President Johnson is also giving the welcoming remarks of the Symposium.



Dawayne Kirkman
Senior Vice President, Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Regional Locations, Clark State Community College

Dr. Dawayne Kirkman serves as Senior Vice President for Student Affairs, Enrollment Management, and Regional Locations at Clark State College in Springfield, Ohio. Since joining Clark State in 2021, he has helped advance major student success initiatives and oversees key areas including student engagement, access, retention, and strategic planning. A first-generation college graduate and longtime higher education leader, Dr. Kirkman is deeply committed to equity, belonging, and helping students succeed. He holds degrees from Berea College, Wright State University, and the University of Dayton.

Keynote:



Major General Matthew S. Woodruff
84th Adjutant General of Ohio

MG Matthew S. Woodruff serves as The Adjutant General of Ohio and has held this position since May 2025. In this role, he is the Governor's principal military advisor and exercises command over the Ohio National Guard, overseeing its federal and state missions, readiness, personnel, and resources.

MG Woodruff commissioned through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) at Bowling Green State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. He holds a Master of Science in Logistics Management from the Air Force Institute of Technology and a Master of Strategic Studies from the United States Army War College.

MG Woodruff has held a wide range of command and senior staff positions at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels. His leadership assignments include service as Assistant Adjutant General for Army, Chief of Staff of the Ohio Army National Guard, and Commander of the 37th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, where he was responsible for the training, readiness, and deployment of thousands of Soldiers.

His operational experience includes multiple overseas deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, serving in Afghanistan and Kuwait. Domestically, he served as Dual Status Commander during Ohio's COVID-19 response operations, coordinating National Guard and federal military efforts in support of civil authorities.

MG Woodruff has also held key joint and strategic planning positions, including Director of Personnel (G1) and Director of Strategic Plans and Policy (J5) for the Ohio National Guard. Earlier in his career, he served in a variety of command and leadership roles with the 101st Airborne Division and the 4th Infantry Division.

MG Woodruff's awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Army Achievement Medal, among others. He is also the recipient of the Expert Infantryman Badge, Parachutist Badge, and Air Assault Badge.

MG Woodruff resides in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife, Lindsay.

Presentation of Awards:



Brian Stewart
State Representative, Ohio House of Representatives; Veteran and Former Military Connected Student

Brian Stewart is currently serving his 3rd term as State Representative for Ohio's 12th District covering all of Pickaway and Madison Counties, and a portion of western Franklin County. He is a practicing attorney with the Law Office of Brian Stewart in Circleville, a former Pickaway County Commissioner, and an infantry veteran of the Iraq War. In the House, Representative Stewart serves on the Health and Judiciary Committee and is Chair of the Finance Committee.



Andrea White
Ohio State Representative, 36 House District

State Representative Andrea White is serving her third term in the Ohio House of Representatives. She represents the 36th House District, which includes Kettering, Moraine, Oakwood, Belmont, and portions of Dayton in Montgomery County.

A long-time resident in the 36th District, White graduated from Centerville High School and received her bachelor's degree from Wright State University. She served as the Clerk of Court for the Kettering Municipal Court from 2004 until she was elected to the House in 2020. While Clerk of Court, Representative White focused on reinventing processes, leveraging technology, and returning millions in revenues and cost savings to improve how government serves its citizens. She also worked on criminal justice issues locally and statewide as legislative co-chair and president of the Ohio Association of Municipal/County Court Clerks.

Award Recipients:



Jim Tressel
Lt. Governor, State of Ohio

Jim Tressel has served as Ohio's lieutenant governor since February 2025, bringing decades of leadership in education, workforce development, and athletics to the DeWine administration. A renowned educator and coach, he previously served as president of Youngstown State University, where he led significant gains in student success, fundraising, and campus growth. Tressel is also celebrated for his storied football coaching career, winning four national championships at Youngstown State and a national championship at The Ohio State University, earning induction into the College Football Hall of Fame in 2015. A lifelong Ohioan, author, philanthropist, and advocate for student opportunity, he remains committed to helping Ohioans achieve their full potential.



Ty Mathews
Ohio State Representative, 83 House District

State Representative Ty Mathews is serving his first term representing Ohio's 83rd House District, covering Hancock, Hardin, and northern Logan counties, and serves as Vice Chair of the House Veterans and Military Development Committee. A U.S. Army Infantry Officer in the Ohio National Guard and Iraq War veteran, he earned top honors in his class and now commands HHC, 1-145th Armor Regiment. State Representative Ty Mathews lives in Findlay with his wife and remains active in his community.

Recognition of Excellence in Programing Awards:

1. Northeast Ohio Medical University
2. Bowling Green State University
3. The Ohio State University
4. Sinclair Community College

Closing Remarks:



Chancellor Mike Duffey Ohio Department of Higher Education

Governor Mike DeWine appointed Mike Duffey the eleventh Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) in January 2024. As Chancellor, he oversees the state's two-year and four-year colleges and universities and Ohio Technical Centers. In addition, the Chancellor provides policy guidance to the Governor and the Ohio General Assembly and carries out state higher education policy.

Prior to being named Chancellor, Mike Duffey served ODHE as Senior Vice Chancellor for five years, collaboratively working on policy proposals for the administration, including tuition guarantees, transcript release, student debt relief, short-term credentials, Ohio's new merit scholarship, increases to need-based aid, and support for innovation and technology commercialization, among other topics. Before the DeWine-Husted administration, Duffey served eight years in the Ohio House of Representatives, where he chaired the Higher Education and Workforce Committee, vice-chaired the legislature's Joint Committee on College Affordability, and co-chaired the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority.

Duffey has a Master of Business Administration from The Ohio State University and a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Michigan. He graduated as a Weidler Scholar at The Ohio State University. Prior to serving in the legislature, Duffey was twice elected to Worthington City Council and worked in the private sector in external relations, communications, and journalism.