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Edison State committed to students, community

PIQUA — Edison State Community College is committed today and, in the future, to be a viable resource, responding to the needs of students and broader communities served. With so much to offer and ongoing processes that assure consistent quality, Edison State remains committed to creating a sustained, significant impact in the region.

President Dr. Duren Larsen has submitted the following report.

In 2019, new campus locations, career-focused programming, and enhanced partnerships were at the forefront of helping the college achieve its mission to provide the learning opportunities, support services, and commitment that enable students to complete their educational goals and realize their dreams. Following tradition, the main campus located in Piqua continues to see growth. The college opened its doors to the Robinson Student Career Center — a unique and architecturally inspiring 5,200-square-foot addition to the West Hall exterior — for the first time. The Robinson Student Career Center is poised to serve as a catalyst for the nearly 4,000 students who make their way through the doors of Edison State by helping to bridge the gap in the employment process.

In addition to growth occurring at the Piqua Campus, a thriving campus in Greenville has moved to a handful of associate degrees, certificates, and short-term technical certifications in agriculture. Since the introduction of a rural programming, it has gained popularity among the vibrant and complex agricultural community that drives the economy of Midwestern Ohio and beyond.

The Edison State Campus at Troy, located at 665 W. Market St., Troy, opened in time for the start of the 2019 fall semester with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The campus was established to meet the needs of the growing healthcare industry and is in position to be the center of healthcare education and training for the Upper Miami Valley.

A relocation agreement with Franklin University provides students with the opportunity to pursue a bachelor’s degree in healthcare beginning at Edison State at Troy and completing at Franklin University through on-site or online coursework.

The Edison State Campus at Eaton, located at 456 Washington Jackson Road Eaton, recently opened its doors in 2019 to better serve the Preble County region. The campus will also serve the regional agriculture industry, presenting a variety of courses designed to help students begin or advance in their current agriculture roles.

All campus locations currently offer general education courses, transfer pathways to both in- and out-of-state four-year universities, as well as degree, certificate, and short-term technical certificate opportunities.

Additionally, the campuses present the opportunity for Colleges Credit Plus coursework, expanded articulation agreements with local cancer centers, and support to regional businesses with response workforce to training and apprenticeship opportunities.

Currently offering over 100 associate degrees, certificates, and short-term technical certificates programs, Edison State added to that list in 2019 to continue to serve the needs of the regional workforce. The new career-ready degrees include Aviation, Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVACR); Veterinary Technology; and Web Development. The college also developed several new certificates and short-term technical certifications designed to give students the skills needed to enter a new career field or advance in their current role.

A UVMC Patient Flow rendering of UVMC’s main entry.

The patient flow project directly affects the hospital entrance and lobby area, beginning with the relocation of the retail pharmacy from the hospital lower level to the first-floor lobby. The new retail pharmacy location will be joined by a new neighbor later in the project with a larger seating area next to the coffee shop. The coffee shop will remain with a new seating area for hospital visitors.

A UVMC Patient Flow rendering of the registration and cashier booths.

Our focus and goal is to be more contemporary in our patient flow, our wayfinding, and to provide better privacy for our patients with individual registration booths,” said Tim Snider, UVMC chief operating officer. The current gift shop and part of the existing cardiac and pulmonary rehab area will be home to CompNet Clinical Laboratories. The seating area next to the large lobby windows will remain with a new look. It will be used for registration and a lab waiting area as well as provide additional seating for hospital visitors.

The new registration area will feature individual registration booths and a sign-in kiosk for outpatients who have preregistered. Other additions will include an employee-staffed information desk and placement of a separate employee to welcome those entering the hospital, assist with wheelchairs, or answer questions.

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The coffee shop opened by Wawa in the lobby will move to the lower level with nutrition services and the cafeteria. The project also will include relocation of electroencephalogram (EEG) services now performed in the main floor cardiology services area to the lower level. That relocation frees up additional space for stress testing and pulmonary function testing which will benefit patient, physicians and staff. The project is expected to take approximately 18 months and will be completed in phases, said Chris Snider, UVMC director of facilities. The project was designed by App Architecture with Wenco Construction awarded the general construction contract. The 7,600-square-foot cardiac and pulmonary rehab addition will more than double the size of the rehab department and will offer a separate entrance for participants in the program. It also will include an employee wellness area for exercise and wellness activities for hospital staff.

“This well-deserved expansion will help us address the growing need for these services and make this much-needed specialized care for our patients even more readily available, close to home,” said Tom Parker, UVMC president. Also new at UVMC this spring will be advanced vein services at the Wound Care and Hyperbaric Center. The VeinCare endovenous laser ablation will be performed at the center along with diagnostic and follow up care exams. Endovenous laser ablation is a non-invasive procedure to address problematic veins. Other services offered at the center include total contact casting, bio-engineered tissues, hyperbaric oxygen therapy, and lipoaspirate dressings.

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A variety of high quality elective courses.

Employing Students to Dream Big, Work Hard and Succeed!

Empowering Students to Dream Big, Work Hard and Succeed!

تم تقديم النص باللغة العربية بناءً على الصورة المقدمة.
Troy Hospital will expand its preoperative area with six new beds.

Cancer care medical office building will include MRI, CT and ultrasound.

Unit beds. The hospital features 28 inpatient beds of a 135,000-square-foot facility that is already making plans for the opening of three additional operating rooms.

By the end of March, surgical services at Troy Hospital will more than double with the opening of three additional operating rooms and an expanded preoperative area with six new beds. The operating rooms will be equipped with advanced laser and robotic technologies. These technologies enable surgeons to perform less invasive and more precise procedures, which often result in faster patient recoveries.

The hospital will also be growing with seven new exam rooms and four in-office procedure rooms. This allows Kettering Physician Network urologist Craig Nicholson, MD, and his advanced practice providers to see more patients both at Troy Hospital and at Kettering Physician Network Urology Wapakoneta. The Wapakoneta practice opened in October 2015, expanding Kettering Health Network’s reach further north.

“Dr. Nicholson is an exceptional urologist who is highly respected by his patients for his caring and clinical expertise,” Lavelle said. “His desire to provide the best care for his patients is evident whether treating patients in his office clinics or using robotic-assisted surgery in the operating room.”

Kettering Health Network’s new $28.5 million Pinga medical complex is scheduled to open in summer 2020. Lavelle says this will be similar to the Kettering Health Network MaddakWest facility and will offer patients more access to the network. The 31,000-square-foot building will have a free-service, 24/7 emergency department that will offer a range of imaging and testing services as well as an outpatient lab that can be utilized on a non-emergency basis. The facility will also have a medical office building for primary care and specialty practices and is expected to create 60 new jobs for registered nurses, respiratory therapists, imaging and lab technicians and support staff.

“Kettering Health Network’s growth in Miami County helps connect patients to the Kettering Health Network care and culture people have previously had to drive great distances to receive,” Lunde said. “Our presence in Piqua will allow us to further the network’s mission to improve the quality of life of the people in the communities we serve.”

Lunde and his family moved to Troy in November 2014. This has allowed him to make connections in the community. “I’ve met and become friends with many wonderful people throughout Miami County. It’s a privilege to be a part of this community,” says Lunde.

“Everyone I get throughout the county, I encounter a welcoming spirit, a strong sense of community and the desire to make our community a wonderful place to live, work and play. We’re blessed to be a part of it.”
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Local growers hope for drier weather in 2020

By Matt Clevery
For Miami Valley Today

MIAMI COUNTY — After enduring one of the wettest planting seasons on record last year, many Miami Valley farmers are looking forward to a fresh start in 2020.

“It was terrible,” Miami County Farm Bureau board president Grant Davis said. “It was certainly one of the wettest planting seasons on record.”

“We had all the rain early on in the spring, and then that just really held on,” he said. “There was a lot of late planting, and a lot of un-certainty, as far as planting a crop late, or not planting at all.”

The late rain caused serious problems for many local grower, and also caused issues for farmers handling livestock. “Rain makes mud,” Davis said. “It can be a difficulty on livestock producers as well, especially hauling manure, cleaning barns or cleaning pins out.”

“Everything that could go wrong kind of did,” he said. “It was so wet early on, and then once we got past the second week in July or so, that rain shut off and then we turned so dry. Really, we were almost in a drought scenario the second half of the growing season. That turned into some not very good yields for a lot of guys around the county.”

While a few did see better than expected yields for 2019, the year was an unexpected how for many growers who had just seen excellent yields in 2017 and 2018. “That was really what made it sting the most this year,” Davis said. “2018 was such a good year, there were excellent yields pretty much across the board everywhere in Miami County. Corn and beans both, and I think even wheat was for the most part record yields.”

“When I start out into some of the worst yields the guys have ever had, that’s quite the swing to have to take,” he said. “The Miami County Farm Bureau currently lists around 750 active members, but the actual number of farms in the county is slightly lower than that. Not every one of those is necessarily a farmer,” Davis said. “We’ve had a lot of livestock leave the county,” he said. “We don’t have nearly as many farms as what we used to, and the same goes for hogs.”

Those who are still here are looking forward to a better year in 2020. “I think everybody’s really to take another whack at 2020,” Davis said, “and hopefully it will be a little bit better.”

“Any winter you start to look forward to the next growing season. It’s such a cyclical business; everybody looks forward to that next growing season. It’s such a cyclical business, everybody looks forward to that next year and being able to start again. You start the season off planting that seed, and you have the optimism that it’s going to grow and it’s going to end up being a good year.”

— Grant Davis
Miami County Farm Bureau Board President

An area farmer harvests corn in a field off Brown Road in the fall.

Mike Ullery | Miami Valley Today
2019 ‘solid’ year for economic growth

By Matt Clewesnor
For Miami Valley Today

MIAMI COUNTY — Steady home construction and several large commercial construction projects combined to make 2019 a relatively good year for business and development in Miami County.

“It was a solid year,” Miami County Department of Development Director Richard Osgood said. “It’s good that we maintained just a steady, solid pace, so that we don’t have big highs and big lows. This county has always just been a very stable, solid-county in terms of economic development, and that works towards maintaining a strong economy, so to have super highs and super lows.”

The Con-Agra expansion in Troy, that was a major expansion,” he said, “and the Troy Hospital was a major construction project.

The Troy Hospital project alone is expected to generate approximately $200 new jobs. “We’re looking to get up and go up slowly from that.”

Another housing development also remained strong in 2019. “We showed that we’re now not just in new single-family residential developments throughout the county. 2019 was a larger year than 2018,” Osgood said.

“Providing a quality place to live and work,” he said. “A lot of the people who work outside of Miami County, they like to live in Miami County. That’s one reason why housing construction is such a very strong part of our economy.

“Another thing that comes with things like hospitals, they tend to live and eat and shop downtown,” he said. Troy, Piqua, Tippecanoe, West Miamion, they are all very active in trying to get businesses and residents in their downtowns.”

In 2020, the department of development is planning for continued growth, manufacturing expansion and more commercial construction. “It’s mostly about the issues that we’ve had with some of the industries, nothing we can really make public yet,” Osgood said.

The department is also working closely with cities throughout the county, coordinating their efforts. “On the football field, competition is good,” Osgood said. “When it comes to working for the county economy, all of us work together. So Tipp City, Troy, Piqua, the county, West Miamion, Covington, Bradford and the townships, we all work together to improve the economy.”

“We’re working hard on being proactive and establishing priorities, setting goals and objectives to maintain a strong economy and a quality place to live in Miami County,” he said. “Some of the things that we’re looking at doing together this year, as a group are doing research on workforce, and building a talent forum.”

The department is also working to build a new business incubator and entrepreneur center that would serve the whole county.

“We’re in the early stages,” Osgood said. “We’re going to do a feasibility analysis so that we can lay out the best location, the best programs and things to offer. It will likely be centrally located, it could be a central place in Troy, it could be a satellite in either city. “We will be in partnership with Edison State and Upper Valley Career Center,” he said.

“It will be in partnership with the entrepreneur center in downtown Dayton. We’ll partner with industry, to be able to offer a makerspace, so that people can come and use CNC machines and maybe, even 3D printers to go on and making inventions.”

The incubator will also feature digital services and a commercial kitchen, for developing recipes into commercial products. “It’s an entire ecosystem for business development,” Osgood said.

“Oversaw the closing of the Tom Martin Cigarette shop,” he said.

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MIAMI COUNTY PROGRESS 2020

Unemployment rate down in 2019

By Aimee Hancock
Miami Valley Today

MIAMI COUNTY — In Miami County, unemployment is at 2.4 percent as of December 2019, down slightly from the 2018 unemployment rate of 2.5 percent, according to economic data compiled by the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

As of December 2019, Ohio's state-wide unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, and the national rate was 3.5 percent, according to the Ohio Research Office, a state affiliate of the U.S. Census Bureau.

Total employment in Ohio is expected to increase 4.4 percent over the 10-year period from 2018 to 2028, with a projected gain of 253,300 jobs.

The state of Ohio's comprehensive annual financial report, released by the Office of Budget and Management in 2019, states the U.S. economy expanded for the 10th consecutive calendar year in 2019.

Real gross domestic product increased at an annual rate of 2.1 percent during the 41 quarters ending in the third quarter of 2019, also a much slower pace than prior expansions, the report states.

Non-farm payroll employment has increased at an annual rate of 1.4 percent, and real disposable personal income has increased at an annual rate of only 2.5 percent, both slower than the historical norm.

Inflation remained modest in 2019, according to the report. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased at an annual rate of 1.9 percent from the fourth quarter of 2018 to the third quarter of 2019, down slightly from a rate of 2.2 percent during the four quarters of 2018.

The core rate of inflation, as measured by the CPI, excluding food and energy, was little changed, at 2.4 percent for the most recent three quarters compared with 2.2 percent during the four quarters of 2018.

Ohio's economy is likely to continue expanding, the annual financial report states, despite the stronger foreign exchange value of the dollar, the slowdown in growth overseas, and the trade disputes with China and other trade partners.

Reach the writer at ahancock@aimmediamidwest.com. © 2020 Miami Valley Today, all rights reserved.
COUNTY PROJECTS AIMED AT SAFETY, QUALITY OF LIFE

MIAMI COUNTY — The Board of Miami County Commissioners is overseeing a number of county projects aimed at improving safety and quality of life in Miami County, and residents will see a number of those projects come to fruition in 2020.

“An lot has happened in one year,” commissioner Ted Mercer said.

The improvement project to the Miami County Courthouse plaza in currently expected to be complete by September.

The Miami County Animal Shelter was packed with perspective dog parents following a story of more than 100 dogs available for adoption following the shutdown of an alleged puppy mill near Troy last week.

MIAMI COUNTY PROGRESS 2020

The Miami County Animal Shelter has also seen a number of changes recently, from new personnel to updated amenities, which the commissioners hope will bring a brighter future for the shelter.

County projects aimed at safety, quality of life

By Sam Wildow

Miami Valley Today

The Miami County Animal Shelter has also seen a number of changes recently, from new personnel to updated amenities, which the commissioners hope will bring a brighter future for the shelter.

The county has improved the socialization area outside of the shelter, including adding new fencing and a new covered structure. Improvements are currently ongoing at the animal shelter thanks to a donation from the Robinson Fund.

Dalton Concrete Construction, Inc. of Troy is currently constructing a structure to cover the fenced kennels and socialization area at a cost of approximately $33,000, which is being funded by the Robinson Fund.

Mercer said this structure will help with overcoming and socializing the dogs at the animal shelter.

The animal shelter also improved its cat room with furniture and other items donated to the shelter.

“We’ve enlarged the room, enhanced the ventilation system,” Mercer said.

A volunteer also decorated the cat room by painting a mural.

See PROJECTS | 11

COVINGTON DENTAL

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Construction crews were back at work on the Miami County Courthouse plaza improvement project in Troy. The plaza improvement project is currently expected to be complete by September. The first phase of the project, which included the demolition of the original site, was completed by L. Lee Construction Inc. of Delphos, and Outdoor Enterprise of Cowlesville is working on the current phase, which includes the construction of new design of the plaza. The cost of the current phase of this project is approximately $3,022,000.

One Stop Shop up in the air

MIAMI COUNTY PROGRESS 2020

previously considering

current location.

traffic, and maintenance at the

location for the One Stop Shop

Registrar License Agency.

Department and the Deputy

currently located at the One

the county's One Stop Shop,

for our county,” Mercer said.

animal abuse cases.

shelter in order to help oversee

department instead of relying

its current manager, Morgan

animal shelter brought on

keeping cats,” Simmons said.

From page 10

changes

Due to a change in the state

Miami County Common

County Common Pleas

Stacy Wall explained the

Common Pleas Court Judge

Common Pleas Court will be

At the northwestern corner of

Miami County Local

Project

One of the largest expenses

one of the greatest expenses

for $100,000 in additional

salaries of a chief probation

until June 2021 to have all of

Pleas Court will have until July

probation department as

County Common

Miami County Common

Miami County Common

One of the largest expenses

The commissioners were

the county's One Stop Shop,

which would house the entities

northeast corner of Lyle

as a possible site to locate the

Engineers of Sidney, how it would not

approximately $2 million for

probation department instead of relying

at the northwest corner of Lyle

and the Deputy

for the new employees,

and additional expenses.

the commissioners asked the

to that location. Evans said the

state of Ohio is also currently

not able to commit to a lengthy

in terms of committing to

housing its institutions at the

One Stop Shop for more

than a couple of years at a time.

Common Pleas Court to see

Pleas Court Jeannine Pratt and Wall

Miami County Common Pleas

Last fall, Miami County

probation department and

Pleas Court is currently the

Municipal Court and Juvenile

The commissioners have

We're here to help you.

plan that let them focus on that new baby smell instead of

meant sitting down with one of our bankers to make a

When Jess and Andrew knew they were expecting, they

It's banking built for living.

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**Arts councils reflect on 2019, plan for 2020**

By Matt Clements

MIAMI COUNTY — Concerts, classes, activities and exhibitions made 2019 a busy year for local arts organizations, which are already hard at work planning events for 2020.

“We want to promote the arts,” Tipp City Arts Council communications coordinator Lynn Shirk said. “Our mission is to support the arts in our community.”

Highlights from 2019 included art exhibitions, like the Rockwell Re-Imagined exhibit hosted by the Piqua Arts Council. “We’re really proud of how it turned out,” Piqua Arts Council executive director Jordan Knepper said. “We had 33 weeks of art that took Norman Rockwell’s Saturday Evening Post covers and re-interpreted them to show the changes in society from Rockwell’s time to today.”

“That exhibit actually got us interest from museum in New York, Michigan, Kentucky and Georgia who wanted to host our exhibit,” he said. “It was a pretty impressive show.”

The Piqua Arts Council also hosted a model train show in December displaying model trains and train-related artwork. “We have on display one major scale model of model trains in the Hayner Cultural Center,” Knepper said. “The exhibit featured 11 different artists providing pictures of trains, train sets and artwork models, including a miniature replica of the Big Four Bridge in Sidney.”

“That exhibit was picked up in newspapers and on radio stations as far away as Cincinnati,” he said. “It was a pretty popular exhibit.”

Live musical performances were also popular in 2019, ranging from recitals to concerts and outdoor music festivals. The Tipp City Arts Council hosted its annual Canal Music Fest, and the Piqua Arts Council held the Rock Piqua concert series. The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center started a new tradition introducing Porthole, a music festival with 36 different bands performing on porches throughout downtown Troy’s Southeast Historic District.

“Porthole was a really exciting thing,” Troy-Hayner Cultural Center music manager Terrylne Moee said. “Imagine 36 bands in a hodgepodge of genres and styles, each bear there are six or seven bands playing.”

“We had about 1,000 people here,” she said. “Nobody was quite prepared for how many people came.”

In Tipp City, the Canal Music Fest also attracted thousands of visitors. “Our largest event every year is the Canal Music Fest,” said Tipp City Arts Council communications coordinator Lynn Shirk said. “We always have a tributes band. It’s totally free; it’s very family-friendly. It’s just a fun night for everyone out under the stars.”

“Last year we had an Elton John tribute band,” Shirk said. “It was over 2,000.”

Looking ahead into 2020, the arts council is already planning this year’s festival, which will be held in June. “This year our tribute bands are Absolute Def Leopard and Absolute Journey,” Shirk said.

Other concerts are also in the works for 2020, including community concerts in Troy and Tipp City and the Lucky Lemonade concert series hosted by the Troy-Hayner Cultural Center. The Piqua Arts Council is also planning to expand the Rock Piqua concert series this year, featuring food trucks at each event.

“We’re really excited about that,” Knepper said. “In addition to free music from 7 p.m. on, we’re also going to have food trucks there starting at 4 p.m. on Rock Piqua days.”

In addition to concerts, both the Tipp City and Piqua arts councils are also planning their annual art shows. Tipp City hosts two shows each year, one in the spring and another in the fall. Piqua hosts one annual show, but it is known as one of the biggest in the state.

“Our annual art exhibit is the largest art show in the Miami Valley region,” Knepper said. “It’s got over 90 artists and 100 works of art.”

All three organizations offer ongoing programs and art classes. “The classes are a part of Hayner’s guidance that just continues to grow,” Shirk said. “We offer every kind of painting you can imagine, figurative, sewing, dance, jewelry making and kid’s classes. There’s a great pottery studio here at Troy, and another in Piqua that became an art academy.”

Georgetta Darr participates in plein air painting in downtown Piqua on Sept. 21, 2019.

**Troy-Hayner Cultural Center**

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center will host its annual Roo Bash in October, and is also planning to bring back the popular Cabaret and Cabaret sing-along event. “That’s something really unique for the Hayner,” Meese said. “In the ballroom, we sell cabernet by the glass and David Wenk, who is an absolutely amazing pianist, he does sing along Hollywood songs. He gives everyone a little songbook, and everybody sits around the piano and sings showtunes.”

In addition to planning special events and activities, all three organizations also donate funds to help support the arts, and also offer year-round children’s programs through local schools and libraries. “We always have a lot of children’s events,” Shirk said. “We have contents and camps for kids, and those are kind of spread out throughout the whole year.”

“We often give donations to the schools or the library,” she said. “We give two scholarships every year, and we also support the schools. We will promote the arts, and the best way to do that is to get kids involved in the arts.”

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Provided photo
Miami Valley ESC continues to serve educators, students

By Melanie Yingst  Miami Valley Today

Larson said approximately 150 students and staff have voluntarily attended First Aid Mental Health, which is a program provided by the Miami County ESC, and is free of charge thanks to support from the Miami Foundation the local Health, Premier Health, Miami County Foundation, Strozer Memorial Foundation, PNC Bank and the Tri-County Mental Health Levy.

Feedback from the First Aid Mental Health has been positive with teachers and staff sharing how it has helped them when teaching. Larson said the center also provides classes and resources to emotionally disturbed, developmentally handicapped and disabled students at the Opportunity School located at Riverside of Miami County in Troy, and the school is in its second year at its location at 2000 W. Stanford Road, Troy, which has been a success for both students and instructors, Larson said.

The center also offers substitute teachers that are approved by the ESC board each month. Larson said the demand for qualified substitute teachers is high in the Miami County area. The center has planned a workshop on Monday, Feb. 17 to refit these interested in becoming certified substitute teachers at the center.

The center also helps schools with changing state guidelines.

Larson gave the example of the new “Permanent Graduation Requirements” that will be in place for the 2023 class. The guidelines require students to demonstrate competency in math and English, by passing the state’s Algebra 1 and English 2 tests. Students who fail will be provided remedial support and use sure credit through College Credit Plus, demonstrate career readiness and technical skill through support options or refit in the military upon graduation.

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For Miami Valley Today

PQUA — The 2019-20 school year has been an accurate reflection of the record books at the Upper Valley Career Center. This year begins in August with just more than 3,000 juniors and seniors on the Papas main campus and 3,410 students in satellite programs throughout Miami and Shelby counties.

The Adult Division also sees peak numbers in several industrial training programs. The continuous increases in enrollment are a testament to the transformative power of career and technical education in our region.

This information was also released as the 14 school districts served by UCCT voted to pass a 1.2 mill operating levy on the November 2019 ballot.

“The success of the levy will allow us to continue to expand our industrial programs to meet the needs of students in the growing region,” said Nancy Luce, superintendent.

“We are grateful to the community for their confidence in us and for providing the resources necessary to truly make an impact. We are committed to move forward with clear purpose and continue the Adult Division’s momentum, said 21 years of educational experience in teaching, administration, and finance, and we look forward to new opportunities in our region. This is accomplished through a wide spectrum of services from building basic skills in the Adult Diploma and ASPIRE programs, to upgrading and retraining adults for today’s in-demand positions in healthcare and manufacturing.

The Adult Division’s role is to develop new training programs to help employers meet the current skills gap head-on. In addition to the existing adult and manufacturing programs available, UCCT Adult Division will be implementing a welding program in the fall of 2020, and roll-out expanded healthcare and medical programs options toward the end of the calendar year.

“This is an exciting time for the Adult Division,” said Duane Caudill. “Our team is working to develop new partnerships and pathways with local businesses to provide a strong local workforce. So, whether an adult is looking to advance their career, change their occupation, or even just get started, we are a strong resource to meet the needs of students, employers.”

High school

The UCCT Technical Campus is a leader across the state and nation in career and technical education. Programs are evaluated each year to ensure that students are being trained with modern technology and methods, and that each career technical program is meeting the needs of in-demand careers in our region. The Electrical Trades classroom underwent renovations to create a more cohesive learning environment for students, while the welding lab is slated for major changes and expansion for the upcoming year. The Building and Ground Maintenance program transitioned into Masonry, Plumbing and Mechanical Systems to meet the needs of local industry.

Off campus, satellite programs provide a vital link to expanding career- and technology-based education to students in Shelby County. The Career Center has the resources to seamlessly integrate state curriculum into any local school and high school level programs. Students gain the career tech experience, knowledge, and credentials while remaining at their home school, Luce said, “We are excited for the future.”

For more about the Upper Valley Career Center, visit www.uppervalleycc.org, find us on social media, or call to schedule an appointment or visit 778-1980.
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