

Our Community

2019 OBERLIN COLLEGE COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



Community engagement is an important part of the educational mission of Oberlin College. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing students with broad knowledge of the wider world—science, culture, and society—as well as the opportunity for in-depth study in their specific areas of interest. An Oberlin education helps students foster a sense of social responsibility, strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills in communication and problem-solving, and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge in real-world settings. Community engagement enables students to develop and hone these skills in ways that also benefit the residents of Oberlin, Lorain County, and Northeast Ohio.





A Shared History, A Shared Future

Since their founding in 1833, Oberlin College and the city of Oberlin have become a vibrant community renowned for academic and musical excellence and historic contributions to Northeast Ohio, the nation, and the world. The college and town have always been physically, socially, and economically intertwined. As befits our founders' vision and our history, Oberlin's campus is not set apart on a hill or sequestered behind gates or walls. It is at the heart of the city, centered around our shared village green, beautiful Tappan Square.

We at the college value greatly our relationship with the city of Oberlin. We are deeply committed to being good neighbors and good citizens of the city and Lorain County, and to helping both thrive. All of us in Oberlin can take pride in the fact that this is a great place to study, work, live, and raise a family.

Oberlin's contributions to the local community take many forms. A recent study produced by the college and the IMPLAN consulting group shows that Oberlin College is directly and indirectly responsible for more than \$143 million in spending annually in the local economy.

Each year, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Conservatory of Music, and the Allen Memorial Art Museum present a plethora of outstanding academic, artistic, musical, and athletic programs, most of which are free and open to our neighbors from the city and region. These lectures, symposia, concerts, recitals, films, events, exhibitions, competitions, and tournaments bring thousands of visitors to our community. For example, the annual Oberlin Summer Theater Festival offers Lorain County and Northeast Ohio productions of free, family-friendly theater classics by William Shakespeare, Anton Chekhov, Tennessee Williams, Arthur Miller, Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, Thornton Wilder, and others.

The economic impact of visitors is only one aspect of the college's contributions to the city, county, and Northeast Ohio. The college and conservatory also attract faculty, staff, and, of course, students to Oberlin. Our students come from 49 states and the District of Columbia and 45 other countries. About 7 percent of our 2,840 students come from Ohio, including the city of Oberlin and nearby communities. Many of our graduates choose to remain in Northeast Ohio. More than 600 Oberlin graduates live and work in Lorain County, and almost 700 reside in Cuyahoga County, serving as doctors, dentists, teachers, civic leaders, executives, entrepreneurs, real estate developers, and leaders in arts, culture, and music.

Oberlin's faculty, staff, students, and alumni also commit thousands of hours to serving the community. Our students annually engage in 115,000 hours of community service, including teaching Spanish in the elementary schools, tutoring and helping high school students prepare for college, working at nonprofits, and volunteering at social service organizations.

I want to thank all of Oberlin's community and regional partners for providing opportunities for our students. I hope you will appreciate this document, which shows the many ways in which Oberlin College is committed to our neighbors in the city of Oberlin, Lorain County, Greater Cleveland, and Northeast Ohio.

Carmen Twillie Ambar
PRESIDENT, OBERLIN COLLEGE



Oberlin College's Economic Impact in Lorain County

To better understand the institution's impact on Lorain County, Oberlin contracted with the IMPLAN group to conduct a careful study. IMPLAN, a leading provider of community impact data and analytical software, uses public economic and institutional data, along with information provided by the institution, to derive economic influence assumptions. IMPLAN breaks down each economic influence by three levels: direct impacts of the institution; indirect impacts, which are related to industries that work with the institution; and induced impacts, which are related to other industries in the surrounding areas. All industries in this study are categorized by IMPLAN.

The information in this study showcases the economic influence that Oberlin College has on Lorain County. The data in the study uses 2018 dollar amounts and populations. The dollar amounts reflect expenses from the college's unrestricted funds. The results and data shown here are for 2019, using 2018 information. The software used for the study accounts for inflation for the 2019 dollar value.

The report first looked at industry output that is influenced by Oberlin College. It found that the college's economic impact through student spending, employee payroll, visitor spending, construction, and institutional expenditures totaled more than \$143 million in annual spending in the local economy.

IMPLAN data indicates that in 2019, Oberlin College will directly account for \$119,448,344 spent across five industries: Colleges and Universities, Real Estate, All Other Food and Drinking Places, Full-Service Restaurants, and Hotels and Motels. Indirectly, the college will account for \$24,383,467 spent with 269 collaborating industries. The top five industries indirectly affected are Real Estate, Employment Services, Maintenance and Repair Construction of Nonresidential Structures, Electric Power Transmission and Distribution, and Other Local Government Enterprises.

Lastly, Oberlin College has induced \$56,228,067 of spending into the surrounding community. The top five industries accounted for are Owner-Occupied Dwellings, Hospitals, Real Estate, Limited-Service Restaurants,





and Offices of Physicians. Overall, it is assumed that Oberlin College will have a total output in 2019 of \$200,059,879.

Oberlin College is also one of Lorain County's largest employers. The majority of its 1,100-plus full-time and part-time employees live and raise their families in Lorain County. IMPLAN's analysis found that the college directly accounts for 3,393 employees across five industries: Colleges and Universities, All Other Food and Drinking Places, Real Estate, Full-Service Restaurants, and Hotels and Motels.

Indirectly, Oberlin accounts for 203 employees across 269 industries and induces nearly 470 employees in the surrounding community. Overall, the college has influenced over 4,060 employee positions in Lorain County. The most influenced industries by Oberlin College are Colleges and Universities, All Other Food and Drinking Places, Real Estate, Full-Service Restaurants, and Employment Services.

Oberlin's standing as an employer also has a significant impact on local, county, state, and federal tax revenues. Based on public information and other data, the college has influence on nearly \$10,670,000 of state and local taxes. At the federal level, the college has an influence of almost \$17,500,000. In Lorain County alone, Oberlin employees paid \$941,000 in taxes. Overall, Oberlin College has impacted over \$29,100,000 in tax dollars.

Based on the gathered data and reported assumptions, it is clear that Oberlin College has a significant economic influence directly and indirectly on the local community. Combing through the reports, one can see that restaurants, hotels, real estate, maintenance professions, and medical industries are most affected by the college's presence. IMPLAN's methods and data estimate that Oberlin College in 2019 has directly and indirectly influenced more than \$200,000,000 in expense output, created over 4,000 jobs, and impacted over \$29,000,000 in tax dollars.

The majority of Oberlin's 1,100-plus employees live and raise their families in Lorain County.



Economic Impact of Oberlin College

\$941,000

in tax dollars paid by Oberlin College employees in Lorain County

\$143

million in direct and indirect spending annually in the local economy

600+

Oberlin graduates live and work in Lorain County



The Hotel at Oberlin

Nestled in the heart of Oberlin, overlooking Tappan Square and just steps from downtown Oberlin and the college, the Hotel at Oberlin demonstrates the great value in city and college partnerships. This modern, eco-friendly hotel features 70 rooms and suites, 6,500 square feet of event space, and the 1833 Restaurant, serving seasonal and locally sourced foods. Built in accordance with the Green Building Council's LEED Platinum rating, the hotel hosts conferences and special events and sponsors travel packages that help boost the local economy.

- Housed within the Peter B. Lewis Gateway Center, the Hotel at Oberlin features artwork and landscape design by renowned artists Maya Lin, Tan Lin, and Edwina von Gal.
- The William and Helen Birenbaum Innovation and Performance Space is a club-like venue in the lower level of the Hotel at Oberlin.
- In 2017, *Town and Country* magazine ranked the Hotel at Oberlin among "The 10 Best College Hotels Across the Country."

Apollo Theatre

With its signature 1950s marquee, Oberlin's Apollo Theatre is synonymous with quality, family-friendly movies. The single-screen movie theater has shown old-school, reel-to-reel films to enthusiastic audiences since 1913. When the Apollo's longtime



owners decided to put the historic movie house up for sale in 2009, the college sought ways to preserve this community asset. College Properties of Oberlin, a wholly owned subsidiary of the college, agreed to purchase and upgrade the theater to meet local business codes and enhance the lobby and concession areas. Today, the 472-seat theater offers first-run films at affordable prices.

Mercy Health–Allen Hospital

Preserving and supporting quality health care locally is a priority for both the city and college. Nearly two decades ago, to ensure retention of a hospital in Oberlin, the college purchased for \$2 million the land on which the then-struggling facility was located. Today, that site is home to Mercy Health–Allen Hospital and its new addition—a 20,000-square-foot medical center.



Experience Oberlin College

Oberlin's facilities are unsurpassed by any school its size. The college has one of the finest college art museums in the country; one of the nation's most extensive college library collections; and first-rate facilities in music, theater, the sciences, and health and wellness. Many of these spaces are open to the public.

ALLEN MEMORIAL ART MUSEUM

Founded in 1917, the Allen Memorial Art Museum is recognized today as one of the five best college and university art museums in the United States. Primarily a teaching museum, the Allen is open to the public and is free for everyone. Collections include works by Picasso, Monet, Rembrandt, Warhol, Eva Hesse, Romare Bearden, Faith Ringgold, and Cindy Sherman, all housed in the impressive Italian Renaissance-style building designed by Cass Gilbert.

Student docents and staff members regularly host tours for K-12 student groups and adults, using age-appropriate techniques that encourage discussion about the art, artists, and cultures represented in the exhibits. "First Thursdays" and "Tuesday Teas" each month allow visitors to interact with artists, curators, and art experts and to learn more about specific works.

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOUSE

The Weltzheimer/Johnson House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright in 1947, is one of about 50 Usonian homes that Wright designed for middle-class Americans following World War II. Very few of these homes are open to the public. The house, which was given to the college by a former art history professor, is operated by the Allen Memorial Art Museum and open to the public the first Sunday of each month from April through November. Tours are \$10.

The Allen Memorial Art Museum houses nearly 15,000 works of art: paintings, sculpture, prints, drawings, photographs, and more.



Spaces on Oberlin's campus can be rented for special events, from wedding ceremonies in **Fairchild Chapel** or **Clark Bandstand** to receptions and conferences in the **Carnegie Root Room** or **Peters Great Hall**.

All adults who live or work in Lorain County have courtesy borrowing privileges at the college's **Mary Church Terrell Main Library**. Check out books, CDs, audio recordings, and more.

The **Oberlin College Observatory and Planetarium** in Peters Hall is open to the public for free on the first and third Fridays of each month after sunset during the academic year.

Oberlin College Lanes offers family-friendly open bowling, lessons, and league bowling and can be reserved for birthday parties and special events.

Community-Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Research

For many students, engaging with the broader community is an important part of their Oberlin College experience. The Bonner Center for Community-Engaged Learning, Teaching, and Research is the campus hub for connecting students and faculty with community service opportunities in Oberlin and beyond.

The Bonner Center's core programs match Oberlin students with local schools, nonprofits, and government agencies through employment, a community service scholarship, coursework and research projects, and summer fellowships. As a result of Oberlin's efforts, the college is among 361 institutions to be awarded the prestigious Carnegie Community

Engagement Classification for excellence in civic engagement.

PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE

The Bonner Scholars Program is a four-year community service scholarship offered to underrepresented and first-generation students who have high financial need and a solid pre-college record of community service. At Oberlin, the program serves 60 students annually, each completing 10 hours of community service per week.

Through the **America Reads** and **America Counts** programs, college students can fulfill their Federal Work-Study requirements by tutoring Oberlin school children in reading and math.

The **Ninde Scholars Program** provides academic support and college access services to 7-12th graders in the Oberlin schools. Each year, more than 20 Oberlin

College students mentor and/or tutor 44 Ninde Scholars, as well as assist Oberlin High School students in science, math, and world languages. The program also offers a series of workshops about accessing college for all Oberlin High School students.

Oberlin's **Community Based Work Study Program** (CBWSP) offers students who have a Federal Work Study award as part of their financial aid package the opportunity to work with one of the Bonner Center's 19 nonprofit and public sector community partner organizations. The Department of Education requires that at least 7 percent of an institution's work study funds be committed to jobs off campus that serve a public purpose. Oberlin regularly exceeds this percentage, with up to 25 percent of the college's annual Federal Work Study allocation designated for community-based work study.





Oberlin College students perform 115,000 hours of community service each year.



COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

Oberlin's curriculum includes more than 50 courses each semester that are designated Community-Based Learning, allowing students to collaborate directly with community partners.

Faculty members at the college work with Oberlin and Northeast Ohio organizations to identify a need or goal that can be integrated into a class project or research. Learning may take the form of direct service projects or be theoretical.



The First Church of Oberlin—whose historic ties to Oberlin College extend back to 1844—cosponsors several annual events with the college. Musicians from the Conservatory of Music perform at the annual Empty Mugs holiday concert, which raises money for Oberlin Community Services. The church also provides classroom space for Oberlin students to teach English as a Second Language to community members and hosts performance space for alumni concerts held during the college's Commencement/Reunion Weekend.

SHARING OUR STRENGTHS

Community-Based Learning courses include:

- **The Cleveland Immersion Program:** Oberlin students learn about the history, challenges, and opportunities of Greater Cleveland in six themes: social justice, sustainability, entrepreneurship, economic development, arts and culture, and community leadership.
- **Environment and Society:** Students explore ways to transition local communities toward sustainability and resilience with respect to food, energy, and shelter in the face of local and global change.
- **Community Music Engagement in the Schools:** Designed for prospective teachers, this course teaches music-making strategies that lead to a

community music engagement project in a Lorain County school.

- **Philosophy in the Schools:** College students develop their philosophical skills and understanding by teaching philosophy through children's literature. The college students make eight weekly visits to Eastwood Elementary School, where they work in pairs to lead lively philosophical discussions with the school children.

Oberlin's **Community Engagement Institute**, held during New Student Orientation each August, is the first of many opportunities in which first-year Oberlin students partner with local organizations. The day includes breakout sessions led by alumni and community leaders, a workshop on volunteer etiquette, and participation

in a service project. In 2019, 100 new students engaged in service at 16 sites, including Oberlin Community Services, the Oberlin Heritage Center, Firelands Association for the Visual Arts, Kendal at Oberlin, and the Oberlin Public Library.

Through the **Connect Cleveland** program, Oberlin's entire class of new students spends a day in Cleveland, where they take part in service projects, visit organizations, meet with alumni, and learn about possibilities for future internships, service, and employment.

Oberlin's **Community-Based Learning & Research Faculty Fellowship Program** encourages Oberlin faculty to think creatively and collaboratively with community partners to teach community-engaged courses and conduct community-based research.



“Oberlin is a great place to do community-based service and learning because of its size. I’ve learned just how many connections there are between the college and community and between community partners themselves. I think that is only possible in a tight-knit community like Oberlin.” —EMILY PETERSON '19



**Oberlin offers 50
Community-Based
Learning courses each
semester, in which
college students
work directly with
community partners.**



“I decided to do SITES for a few reasons—to be able to use my Spanish-speaking abilities outside of the classroom, to be able to interact with the Oberlin community, and to be able to interact with kids. And SITES is an awesome combination of all three of these! Through SITES, I feel like I have gained a tremendous amount of confidence in my teaching abilities and my ability to plan and execute entertaining lessons.”—ELKA RUBIN '18



Academic Enrichment

Oberlin believes that access to a quality college education should be a viable option for every student seeking a degree. That’s why the college is committed to programs that offer academic enrichment and college-preparation services to all young people in Oberlin, plus programs and services geared for adults.

- **The William L. Robinson Scholarship** allows qualified Oberlin City School students to attend Oberlin College tuition-free. Nearly \$11 million has been awarded to 79 Oberlin High School students since the scholarship’s inception in 2001; 10 within the past two years.
- The college’s Office of Admissions holds special **college-prep workshops and information sessions** for Oberlin High School students.
- **The Spanish in the Elementary Schools (SITES) program** recruits and trains Oberlin College students to teach Spanish to children in Oberlin’s Eastwood Elementary School twice a week.
- **Get with the Program**, a nonprofit created by an Oberlin alumna, promotes and reinforces literacy in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) through summer camps and arts enrichment programs for local youth.
- Oberlin residents can **audit classes** at the college (with a professor’s permission).
- **ExCo** is a student-run department of the college that offers classes for and taught by students, community members, and high school students. Courses typically cover subject matter not offered through the Oberlin College curriculum, such as American Sign Language, Web Development, Debate and Public Speaking, Video Games as Art, Beginning Hebrew, and Aikido.

Community Engagement

Service opportunities allow Oberlin students to explore their academic and career interests, build professional skills, and learn from leaders in nonprofit and government agencies while addressing community-identified needs.

- **Oberlin Drama at Grafton** and **Oberlin Music at Grafton** help prepare residents of the Grafton Reintegration Center for a successful return to society through increased self-knowledge, social understanding, and enhanced life skills gained from studying and performing drama and music. Oberlin students and faculty direct both the prison choir and the actors, who present works from Shakespeare as well as their own stories, monologues, and poems. To date, 50 Grafton residents have participated in the Oberlin Music at Grafton Choir, and 50 students have sung with and/or conducted the choir.
- **El Centro Volunteer Initiative** is a student-run program connecting students, faculty, and community members with Latinx residents in Lorain County. Volunteers teach citizenship and ESOL classes every week.

ECVI also has three working groups focused on fundraising, grant writing, and curriculum development.

- **Oberlin Food Rescue** is a service staffed by student volunteers that transports donated food from various locations in the community, including Campus Dining Services, to Oberlin Community Services' nonprofit food pantry.
- **The Oberlin Bike Co-op** is a volunteer-run nonprofit whose mission is to promote bicycle culture and teach people how to care for their bikes. The co-op offers tools, recycled parts, and mechanical experience to help children and adults fix and build their own bicycles, all free of charge.
- **College & Main** is a college-sponsored "passport" program that encourages visitors to the college—alumni, families, and other guests—to

shop and eat locally. In addition, the program invites Oberlin residents to attend the many concerts, art exhibitions, and recitals held on campus during Commencement/ Reunion Weekend each May.

- **Coalition for Oberlin History** is an alliance of people devoted to telling the stories of Oberlin's history. The group, which includes college faculty members, created a series of free app-based walking tours that focus on Oberlin schools, Westwood Cemetery, Groveland Street's African American community, and Oberlin College.
- The college is a partner of the **Oberlin Food Hub**, a nonprofit dedicated to supporting local farmers and increasing local food access in Northeast Ohio. The hub purchases food directly from local farmers and growers, then sells it wholesale to buyers.



Over the past 18 years, 79 Oberlin High School students have attended Oberlin College tuition-free.



- **CoWork Oberlin** offers freelancers, remote workers, small businesses, entrepreneurs, and startups a shared space to work, collaborate, and network. The local coworking concept had its roots with the college and is now managed by the Oberlin Business Partnership. The workspace is located at 235 Artino Street.

Culture and Music

Oberlin's campus is a giant, multi-venue concert complex, with more than 500 performances presented annually, most of them free of charge. Oberlin orchestras, choirs, and the Oberlin Jazz Ensemble perform in grand spaces like Finney Chapel and Warner Concert Hall, as do internationally renowned guest artists. The college's theater and dance

departments offer dozens of productions in Hall Auditorium and other venues. More intimate spaces host everything from OCircus, improv clubs, chamber music, and jazz ensembles to national touring acts.

The Oberlin Summer Theater Festival is a professional, nonprofit summer theater company that presents free productions of classic, family-friendly theater pieces. The festival's acting company consists of Equity actors, local non-equity players, and Oberlin students and new graduates. Recent productions have included *Little Women*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *Measure for Measure*.

Students in Oberlin's Division of Jazz Studies perform regularly in small ensembles and at the popular **Jazz Forums** held Fridays at noon in the Cat in the Cream Coffeehouse.

Operated by the Conservatory of Music, the **Community Music School** offers private lessons for children and adults of all abilities in nearly every instrument and vocal area, MusicPlay classes for preschoolers, electronic music courses, and ensembles in guitar and chamber music.





The goal of the Community Music School is to promote the broader mission of the conservatory: performance, creation, and study of music at the highest level. The school offers financial assistance to all students who qualify.

The Oberlin Arts and Sciences

Orchestra, made up of college musicians as well as residents of the surrounding area, performs four concerts each year in Finney Chapel, with frequent collaboration with conservatory faculty.

Dating to 1837, Oberlin's 140-voice **Musical Union** joins singers from campus and in the community for performances of great works for chorus and orchestra.

New to campus is the **Kander Theater**, a 75-seat black-box performance space for student work, and the **Eric Baker Nord Performing Arts Annex**, which houses the **Irene and Alan Wurtzel Theater**, an adaptable space that can seat 300-plus guests. These spaces join the 500-seat **Hall Auditorium**, used to stage large-scale opera, theater, and dance productions.

WOBC Radio is the college's student-run, freeform community radio station

broadcasting nonstop at 91.5 FM in Lorain County and on the web at wobc.org. WOBC broadcasts more than 150 programs weekly—talk shows, news reports, music shows spanning all genres, and live performances—each conceived and produced by volunteer DJs. Community DJs are an integral part of WOBC, which currently features 20 flagship programs hosted by DJs in the Oberlin area.

Each summer the Conservatory of Music offers a series of **Conservatory Summer Programs** for high school and college students, teachers, accomplished amateurs, and professionals. They are intended to expand repertoire; improve technique, teaching, and performance skills; and encourage performance in a supportive and collegial environment.

Through the conservatory's **Pedagogy, Advocacy, and Community Engagement (PACE) division**, Oberlin students interested in music education careers teach private lessons and facilitate musical experiences at after-school programs. The program emphasizes social justice and arts advocacy.

Oberlin presents more than 500 performances annually, most of which are free.



Oberlin's **Gig Referral Service** connects community members with highly talented Oberlin Conservatory musicians. Students can be hired for weddings and receptions, religious services, business functions, holiday parties, and other special occasions.

What's happening on campus? Find out by visiting www.oberlin.edu/events.

Athletics and Wellness

Oberlin College is an NCAA Division III institution and part of the North Coast Athletic Conference, the first conference in the country devoted to giving equal emphasis to men's and women's sports. The college offers 21 varsity sports, with roughly 350 student athletes participating each year. All college athletics events are open to the public and free of charge.

REC CENTER MEMBERSHIPS

Community residents may purchase memberships to the Oberlin College recreation center, which includes full use of facilities in the new Shanks Health and Wellness Center, the Philips Physical Education Center, and the Heisman Field House. The complex includes the newly renovated Carr Pool, fitness areas and weight machines, a 25-foot rock-climbing wall, two gyms, an indoor track, and indoor courts for tennis, racquetball, and squash. Outdoor facilities include sports fields, a track,

and tennis courts. Community members can also participate in YeoFit—drop-in fitness classes and wellness events and fitness challenges held throughout the year.

HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS

Oberlin's athletic facilities are used throughout the year by constituents from across the state and beyond. Oberlin routinely hosts Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) events in tennis, lacrosse, track and field, and baseball. Throughout the summer, Dill Field is one of the most-used baseball fields in the state and is home to the Lake Erie Warhawks, a summer baseball organization. Bailey Field has hosted OHSAA soccer and lacrosse tournament games and is the new home field for the majority of Oberlin High School football games.

SPORTS CAMPS

Throughout the summer, Oberlin hosts numerous sports camps and clinics for area youth. One of the most successful

in recent years has been the Nike Cross Country Camp. Other sports offering summer camps include tennis, football, and basketball.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The Oberlin College Department of Athletics is a recognized leader in giving back to the community. Each year, Oberlin's 21 varsity teams sponsor an independent service project connecting athletes with community organizations including Kendal at Oberlin, George Jones Memorial Farm, the Western Reserve Land Conservancy, and the Oberlin City Schools. Department-wide initiatives such as Helping Hands, Track or Treat, the Teddy Bear Toss, Play like a Girl, Penny Wars, and Buddy Up Tennis provide additional service opportunities for athletes, who have participated in more than 10,000 hours of community service in the past six years.

Many varsity sports programs also work closely with organizations such as America Reads, Team IMPACT, One Love, Get with the Program, Autism Speaks, the National Breast Cancer Foundation, the American Heart Association, and the Salvation Army. The National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators honored Oberlin in 2018 as a recipient of its Community Service Award.





Partners in Sustainability

Oberlin College Environmental Dashboard measures electricity and water consumption on campus and in local schools, businesses, public facilities, and homes, translating this data into real-time animations displayed on LCD screens around campus and town. Developed and maintained by college students and faculty members, the dashboards are designed to engage, educate, motivate, and empower residents to make informed choices

that conserve resources. Eighteen environmental dashboard monitors have been installed throughout Oberlin, including in the public schools, campus buildings, city hall, local businesses, and the Oberlin Public Library.

George Jones Memorial Farm and Nature Preserve, located just one mile east of campus, is a 70-acre organic farm and nature preserve that grows food and teaches sustainability principles. The innovative educational site offers resources and activities for students and the greater community.

Named after Oberlin College botanist George Jones, the farm is a haven for native plants and wildlife. The farm's partnership with the college allows for classes and research on site, while also providing the community with local, affordable food through its work with City Fresh, a membership-based Community Supported Agriculture program.

Oberlin's CarShare Program is open to community members. Cars are located throughout the campus and town and can be rented by the hour or day.



Five buildings on Oberlin's campus have been constructed or renovated in accordance with the Green Building Council's LEED silver status or higher.



Annual Community Events

The Big Parade: a community-wide celebration of arts and creativity, the springtime Big Parade features handcrafted costumes, puppets, and intricate floats.

Empty Bowls Concert: Conservatory of Music students perform a holiday concert while guests shop for handmade ceramic bowls and mugs. The annual event is held at First Church of Oberlin, with all proceeds benefiting Oberlin Community Services.

Oberlin Community Candidates Night: The college cosponsors a bipartisan pre-election roundtable discussion each fall focusing on local candidates and issues.

Friendship Day: By promoting friendship as a radical foundation for social change, the Oberlin Friendship Circle seeks to build a community among people of all religious and cultural identities. Its annual festival features musical performances and food and merchandise from local businesses.



Several Oberlin College alumni have stayed in—or returned to—Oberlin to open their own successful businesses:

- **Cowhaus Creamery**, owned by Josef Bombback '76
- **The East College Street Project**, owned and developed by Sustainable Community Associates, which was founded by alumni Naomi Sabel '02, Ben Ezinga '01, and Josh Rosen '01. SCA developed and owns four other mixed-use residential/commercial properties in Cleveland.
- **Ginko Gallery & Studio**, owned by Liz Burgess '73
- **Rosen-Jones Photography**, owned by Tanya Rosen-Jones '97
- **The Slow Train Cafe** and **The Local Coffee & Tea**, owned by Jessica New '01 and Zach Tesler '07
- **The UPS Store**, owned by Kristin Peterson '72

Local Community Partners

Oberlin partners with more than 100 local social services agencies, schools, religiously affiliated service organizations, grassroots community initiatives, and municipal government entities to provide assistance to the community and educational opportunities for Oberlin students.

America Counts	Lorain County Urban League
America Reads	MAD Factory
American Cancer Society	Mercy Foundation of Lorain County
American Red Cross	Neos Dance Theatre
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Lorain County	New Agrarian Center/George Jones Farm
Bill Long Foundation	Ninde Scholars Program
Blessing House	Nord Center Sexual Assault Services
Boys and Girls Club of Lorain County (Oberlin Unit)	Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra
The Bridge	Oasis Animal Shelter
Community-Based Work Study Program	Oberlin Business Partnership
Circle Health Services	Oberlin Center for the Arts
City of Oberlin Office of Sustainability	Oberlin Choristers
City Year	Oberlin City Schools
Coalition for Oberlin History	Oberlin Community Services
Community Action to Save Strays	Oberlin Early Childhood Center
Du Bois Project	Oberlin Food Hub
El Centro de Servicios Sociales Inc.	Oberlin Heritage Center
Elyria YWCA	Oberlin Public Library
Firelands Association for the Visual Arts	Oberlin Weekday Community Meals
Get with the Program	Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve
Healing Companions Inc.	ORMACO
Hospice of the Western Reserve	Peace Community Church
Juneteenth Oberlin Inc.	Peace Corps
Kendal at Oberlin	<i>Plum Creek Review</i>
Langston Middle School	POWER
League of Women Voters of the Oberlin Area	Save Our Children
Legal Aid Society of Lorain County	SITES (Spanish in the Elementary Schools)
Lorain County Community Action Agency	THRIVE! Southern Lorain County
Lorain County Free Clinic	Vermilion Family YMCA
Lorain County General Health District	Welcome Nursing Home
Lorain County Habitat for Humanity	Western Reserve Land Conservancy Firelands Field Office
Lorain County Metro Parks	Zion Community Development Corporation

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The majority of Oberlin's 1,100-plus employees live and raise their families in Lorain County.

Oberlin College is responsible for more than \$143 million in direct and indirect spending annually in the local economy.

Oberlin students perform 115,000 hours of community service each year.

Oberlin presents more than 500 performances annually, most of which are free.

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