

# ALIGN & ENGAGE

NEWSLETTER



EMPOWERING STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, AND  
COMMUNITY IN SUMMIT COUNTY



Spring 2023

## Empowering Education: A Message of Inspiration from Dr. David James

### Supporters and friends of Summit Education Initiative,

As the new executive director, I am thrilled to share with you the importance of education in our community. We must work together to increase awareness of educational attainment as a key driver of personal and regional prosperity. While we have become a more educated county in recent years, we need to accelerate this growth to ensure a qualified talent pool for increasingly complex job opportunities.



***David James, Ed.D.***

Executive Director

By pulling our community together, we can create more fantastic opportunities and significant progress for students of all grades in Summit County. We must continue to aspire and inspire as professionals, with collaboration and dedication to our community's children. Let's work hard together towards new beginnings and a brighter future.

**Thank you for your continued support and commitment to education in  
Summit County.**

## NEWS

### MAY OUT OF SCHOOL TIME MEETING

Thank you to all who attended the Out of School Time Network Meeting! Your collaboration and dedication to our community's children is truly inspiring.

**Did you know that children spend 80% of their waking hours outside of school?**

That's why we are working together to provide extraordinary opportunities and make significant progress for all students in Summit County, regardless of their grade level. As professionals, let us continue to aim high and motivate each other!

If you're interested in getting involved or finding out more about the Out of School Time

Network, click the button below to learn more.



[LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OST NETWORK](#)

## CLASS ACT SCHOLARS GRADUATION

Congratulations to the dedicated and hardworking early educators of Summit County who have completed the CLASS Act Scholars of Summit County Program! Your commitment to shaping young minds is truly inspiring. We celebrate your achievements and the positive impact you have on the children in your care.

CLASS Act Scholars is a 9-month professional development program that

strengthens, supports, and empowers teachers with coaching and providing resources that are proven to increase children's learning through high-quality interactions.



## DR. ALLYSON DRINKARD LEADING THE CITY OF AKRON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PLAN

Dr. Allyson Drinkard has designed and is currently implementing a comprehensive evaluation strategy for the [City of Akron's Youth Violence Intervention and Prevention \(VIP\) Strategic Plan](#). The goal of the VIP Strategic Plan is to reduce violent crimes committed by Akron youth ages 13-24 by 10% from 2023 to 2028. The plan's eight key strategies to meet this goal include mentoring, recreation and discretionary time, re-entry support, police-youth relations, mental health and substance abuse support and treatment, gun violence reduction, community awareness and involvement, and workforce development and livable wage



***Allyson Drinkard, Ph.D.,***  
Senior Director  
Research and Evaluation

employment. Through engagement and collaboration with over 40 grassroots organizations and community agencies and partners, the evaluation will support the identification of effective violence prevention and intervention approaches in Akron while also bolstering local program sustainability efforts.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

### CAREER DAY AT LITCHFIELD CLC

We are proud to partner with Litchfield CLC, an institution under Akron Public Schools, as a College and Career Academy Partner. In May, we had an amazing experience at the 5th Grade Career Expo where we had the chance to interact with over 150 fifth-graders from different elementary schools in Akron. We shared with them the interesting research we do at SEI and how we use it to assist children in their preparation for kindergarten, reading, and academic and career success. While it was a bit challenging explaining our work to 10-year-olds, we did our best and had a great time.



### STOP THE VIOLENCE FOOTBALL CAMP

Recently Ellis Davis, our Out of School Time Network Manager, was asked to speak at the Stop the Violence Football Camp put on by the Akron Bengals.

Empowering our youth through sports and positive community impact is a key part of helping to build brighter futures.



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## UNITED WAY OF SUMMIT AND MEDINA COUNTY'S DAY OF ACTION

SEI was thrilled to have the amazing opportunity to participate in the United Way of Summit and Medina County's Day of Action. It was an incredibly rewarding experience for all of us to volunteer at Stewart's Caring Place, where we were able to make a positive impact in the lives of individuals in our community.

At the end of the day, we left feeling grateful for the opportunity to give back to our community and inspired to continue making a difference in the lives of others. We are already looking forward to our next opportunity to volunteer and make a positive impact in our community.



## COMMUNITY RESOURCES

## CAREER AWARENESS VIDEO

Director of Emergency Management Agency, Thomas Smoot



Career awareness videos are particularly helpful for students who are deciding on a major or planning their future career paths. By watching these videos, they can gain a better understanding of the diverse career options available to them and make informed decisions about their future.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW MORE CAREER AWARENESS VIDEOS](#)

## THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

On behalf of Summit Education Initiative, we would like to express our sincerest gratitude for your generous contributions. Your support enables us to further our mission of increasing personal and regional prosperity through educational attainment in Summit County.

Our vision is to see all students in Summit County prepared for success on their chosen path, and your donations help us get one step closer to achieving that goal. Your support allows us to provide valuable resources and opportunities to students who may not have had access otherwise.

**Once again, thank you for your generosity and for believing in our mission. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to continuing to work together towards a brighter future for Summit County.**



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Summit County Children's Services

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GOJO

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Summit Education Initiative (SEI) is a nonprofit organization working to increase the educational attainment of individuals and their families living in Summit County. We believe this helps ensure every student graduates prepared, passionate and persistent. The mission of SEI is to improve personal and regional prosperity through increased educational attainment.

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