



'2-for-1' tuition relief aims to bring more students to campus

Newly announced scholarship funded by Board of Trustees goes to class of 2025



AVAERIE FITZGERALD

The Gill Welcome Center sits on College Ave. with tour guides and admissions on the ready to greet a new incoming class.

AVAERIE FITZGERALD & GRACIE WILSON
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Paving the way for a new graduating class at Ashland University, several Board of Trustees members have funded a 2-for-1 tuition relief scholarship that offers first year, full-time students a financial break.

Marc Pasteris, vice president and chief financial officer, expects an excess of around 200 students to benefit from this scholarship.

"It originated through conversations with President Campo and the Board of Trustees and the generous donations that came forward from the Trustees," Pasteris said. "[The Board] always looks strategically in addition to the leadership team, so it percolated through those conversations."

This scholarship can be used by incoming students to pay for the spring semester of 2022, however, there are a few qualifications that have to be met. Students must be living on campus and have a good academic performance in their fall semester (achieving a 2.0 minimum GPA).

The fall tuition bill has to be paid in total and students are required to accept all other financial assistance they are able to receive, both state and scholarship funds.

"We are, as stated in the Ashland



EAGLEEYE PHOTOGRAPHY

Prospective students are led by a tour guide during a campus visit (prior to the pandemic).

promise, an affordable institution and we always have been," Pasteris said. "This is an initiative that the president and the board thought was appropriate at the time."

The scholarship is not only aimed toward being a helpful resource for new students who may need a push to go to a university, but also as a resource for AU. It brings more students in, who otherwise would not have chosen the school and the

school gains both enrollment numbers and tuition for the next three years.

"You're trying to attract students to your university," Pasteris said. "Through those efforts in sharing with prospective students the value of Ashland University, the quality of education that the students are going to receive and allowing them to see who we are and whether it's the right fit for them, we hope that

they're attracted to [the institution] and they'll become a student—a future eagle."

The expected freshman class, as of now, is predicted to climb to around 500 students, according to Pasteris.

This expected number surpasses fall of 2020's first-year, full-time student class size of 432.

In a press release, AU President Dr. Carlos Campo said, "Ashland

University is dedicated to providing financial help for any individual who wants to invest in a college education but may not be able to enroll because of financial limitations. Our goal is to close the financial gap and, in honoring our promise to offer an affordable education to all students, ensure that those who want to attend Ashland have that opportunity to do so. If you want to go to Ashland University, we are committed to making it happen."

While Ashland University is making strides in funding the education of the students who will soon walk the halls of the academic buildings, other schools are taking measures to make sure that among the pandemic they are also getting students in the door.

Kent State University in North-East Ohio began a tuition freeze in the fall 2018 semester for all students that were coming new to the university. This freeze promised KSU students that their tuition would never go up in their four years at the institution.

Ashland also began a tuition freeze, but they did not do so until fall 2020. Almost two years earlier, Kent State had this initiative in place to get students in the door knowing that they would not be paying more as time went on.

Another way that schools are competing to get Freshman to enroll is with a test optional enrollment. AU announced in the fall 2020 semester that they were going to be test optional for the upcoming freshman class of fall 2021 due to complications from the COVID-19 pandemic.

While this initiative was put in place by Ashland University, they are not alone. Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio also announced that they are test optional for the same purposes, as well as promising students total tuition transparency.

According to otterbein.edu, "Before you enroll, Otterbein University will let you know how much tuition will increase each of the four years of your degree."

This promise eliminates the element of surprise for students so that they know their tuition will rise rather than just seeing it as a surprise when their semester bill arrives in the mail.

Read the rest on AU-Live.com

Safety Services: Around-the-clock assistance

KATIE FOSTER
Reporter

Ashland University's Safety Services has added features both around campus and online in order to offer students peace of mind.

Director of Safety Services Dave McLaughlin said the purpose of his role is to "provide an environment that helps students, faculty, staff and really the whole campus community achieve their goals." This includes improving the services that are offered to students in cases of emergency, one of which is the CampusShield app.

CampusShield is an app for students to use to contact Safety Services or get notifications safety services send out about emergency related issues.

"It's not just us pushing information out, the students can use it to give us tips, information on crimes, they can use the friend watch app" McLaughlin said.

CampusShield has been downloaded and used by students and faculty since AU introduced the app to campus in 2018. Since then, students have had an easier time reaching out for help in minimal time.

McLaughlin said that the usage has increased since the new COVID-19 feature was added.

The recreation center uses Campus Shield's COVID-19 feature to determine whether students and faculty coming in could be symptomatic. The app provides a checklist that visitors have to fill out before entry.

Another resource the school provides are the blue police buttons around campus, located near several parking lots around campus, and in the main walkways.

"In the event of an emergency or [if someone is] in need of service, they can hit the phone and it comes through phone lines in the dispatch station here, which is manned 24/7," McLaughlin said.

McLaughlin said the blue police buttons were put up around AU before they had Campus Shield. Although many students go through the app when faced with an emergency, the police buttons are still available to use, and in some instances, could be more accessible.

"People very, very rarely use the blue lights because, as our campaign says, you have a blue light phone in your pocket," McLaughlin said. "You've got that cell phone and it's instant communication with just a few pushes of the buttons."

Safety Services has many routines and protocols they follow in order to provide the maximum amount of safety for the AU campus.

"We patrol campus [and] we have officers on campus 24/7," McLaughlin said.



AVAERIE FITZGERALD

Several emergency buttons are located all around campus. This red pole is located in front of Founder's Hall.

Read the rest on AU-Live.com

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