



# Athletic Health Care and Fitness

Career-Technical Education Program News from the Six District Educational Compact

## Success Stories



**Marissa Kassinger and Joel Garvin** volunteer as young parents for the Akron Children's Hospital Austen Simulation Center training session for new employees.



**Marissa Kassinger and Lori Ferrara**



**Niarra Gooden-Clarke** (pictured first row, bottom right) with the 2021 Dayton Contemporary Dance Company

## AHCF networking in high school comes full circle

**Marissa Kassinger**, 2017 Cuyahoga Falls graduate and Athletic Health Care and Fitness completer, graduated from Ashland University in May of 2021 with her BS in Nursing. She credits much of her success to the countless shadowing, networking and volunteer opportunities that she experienced in AHCF. "While in the AHCF program, we were required to complete ten shadowing experiences during our senior year," Marissa says. She goes on to share that shadowing a Cardiac ICU nurse and the head of Quality Control at Summa (who was a former nurse) contributed to her realization that becoming a nurse was her career path.

Marissa recently started work as an RN at Akron Children's Hospital and was surprised to run into nurse educator **Lori Ferrara**, at her orientation, whom she had volunteered with while in the AHCF program.

Lori shares, "I first met Marissa while she was an AHCF student and we had an immediate connection because of her excitement to pursue a career in nursing. As a nurse educator who assists in nursing orientation, I was so excited to see Marissa again and that she chose to start her nursing career at Akron Children's."

Marissa says that instructor, Terry Slattery, provided her with the motivation to take risks both while in college and when applying for her dream job. She states, "He gave us one piece of advice in class that I have carried throughout life – the worst thing that someone can say is no, but you have to ask."

## Exciting news from AHCF completer

**Niarra Gooden-Clarke**, a 2018 Roosevelt graduate and Athletic Health Care and Fitness completer, recently shared exciting news with instructor, **Terry Slattery**. "After sending in multiple auditions for different dance companies last spring, I received a contract as an apprentice with the Dayton Contemporary Dance Company; I moved to Dayton in August to dance with the company!"

Terry Slattery explains, "Although Niarra was a very quiet student, you could tell that she had an incredible passion for dance. She often related things we were learning in class back to her dance interest. Whether it was injury evaluation and management, rehabilitation, or strength and conditioning principles, you could tell that she was thinking about how the information could enhance her dance, as well as her fellow dancers."

Niarra has attended Kent State University since 2018 and shares that she will continue to take online coursework from KSU to obtain her BA in Dance Performance and Sociology this Spring 2022. While on campus at Kent State, Niarra was on the President's List, served as the President of the Student Dance Education Organization (SDEO), served as a Co-Student Artistic Director for the Kent Dance Ensemble (KDE), was a member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and was a member of the Kent State Dance team for two years. Niarra also taught dance at two local studios in Northeast Ohio and was the assistant cheerleading coach at Roosevelt.

Terry Slattery shares, "I am extremely happy and excited that Niarra has been able to take her dance passion and make it a career. I have no doubt that she will work as hard as possible to reach her goals and dreams."



**Six District Educational Compact**

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## Over 60 AHCF completers involved in treating COVID-19 in Ohio communities

**Terry Slattery**, Athletic Health Care and Fitness instructor and head athletic trainer for the Kent Schools, recently surveyed completers of the AHCF program to learn about their experiences in treating COVID-19.

According to Terry, "This is a sampling of just a few of the more than 60 responses I received. I am proud of all of the AHCF completers, who are contributing to the health and safety of our communities during this pandemic."

**Hannah August**, 2016 Hudson graduate, is a Firefighter/Paramedic for the Twinsburg Fire Department. She is involved in the medic transport of COVID-positive patients, including increased haz-mat mitigation and response.

**Bobby Bair**, a 2008 Stow-Munroe Falls graduate, is an Athletic Trainer at Ohio Wesleyan University. He is involved in daily OWU athlete screenings, athletic department mitigation protocol design, implementation, and compliance and can be reassigned to assist with hospital-based patient screenings.

**Matt Brandon**, a 2010 Stow-Munroe Falls graduate, is an Occupational Therapist at Green Village Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation and is involved in evaluation and occupational therapy treatment of COVID-positive patients.

**Andy Campbell**, a 2005 Roosevelt graduate, is a Police Officer and Paramedic with an Ohio Highway Patrol Investigative Unit. Andy actively works on the enforcement of COVID-related rules, regulations and public safety.

**Shelby Gluth**, a 2018 Stow-Munroe Falls graduate, works in the Summit County Health Department as a Patient Advocate, where she interviews COVID-positive patients and does contact tracing and provides COVID-related assistance.

**David Goodhart**, a 2000 Roosevelt graduate, is a Registered Nurse at Mercy Medical Center in Canton. He works in the emergency room with direct patient care of COVID positive patients.

**Scott Habowski**, a 2004 Roosevelt graduate, holds a Doctorate in Exercise Physiology. He works for DaVita Clinical Research based in Minneapolis, MN. Scott is involved in COVID antibody treatment research study trials related to ways to prevent or minimize effects of COVID once diagnosed.

**Dustin McGraw**, a 2015 Tallmadge graduate, is a former member of the Ohio National Guard and is currently enrolled in the Akron Police Academy and works for ServPro Environmental Services. Dustin is involved in home and business COVID mitigation and clean-up and was deployed by the National Guard in a humanitarian role.

**Laine Sommers**, a 2003 Roosevelt graduate, is a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine. Laine provides direct physician patient care at PriMed Centerville Family Practice.

**Amanda (Von Spiegel) Weatherbee**, a 2011 Stow-Munroe Falls graduate, holds a Doctorate of Physical Therapy. Amanda provides physical therapy services to COVID-positive residents at Continuing Health Care Solutions of Cuyahoga Falls.



**Keith Perroto (Woodridge)**  
at the Akron Marathon finish line

Athletics. Seniors **Kelsey Barker** (Tallmadge), **Keith Perroto** (Woodridge), and **Evan Reischman** (Cuyahoga Falls) volunteered in various medical support roles at the medical tent finish line.

The students were able to meet a variety of professionals to help grow their health care network. Students worked with **Jeremy Ford**, Athletic Trainer, who was a medical volunteer organizer and is a great supporter of AHCF. Kelsey shared, "I did not realize how many different medical professionals were involved with the marathon to ensure the safety of the runners, volunteers, and spectators. The planning that went into this event was impressive and should make anyone participating feel safe knowing that any injury or emergency that may happen will be taken care of."



**Renovated AHCF classroom**

will be teaching Anatomy/Physiology and assisting with all skill labs. The new classroom underwent renovations as well. The program continues to offer a wealth of opportunities for students, including nine college credits that are available to students at public Ohio universities upon completion of the program. Additional college credits are available for students from Kent State University, including Exercise Science and Sports Medicine.

## Students volunteer at Akron Marathon

Several Level II seniors volunteered at the Akron Marathon on September 25, 2021. Instructor **Terry Slattery** connected students to this opportunity through **Dr. Nilesh Shah**, Medical Director of the Akron Marathon, who also serves as the Chair of the AHCF Advisory Board and is the volunteer Team Physician for Roosevelt

## AHCF Update

The Athletic Health Care and Fitness program at Roosevelt has expanded to a total of 50 new Level I students for the 2021-2022 school year. Alongside **Terry Slattery**, **Angela Textor**, former Health Careers Technologies instructor and Athletic Trainer for Kent City Schools,