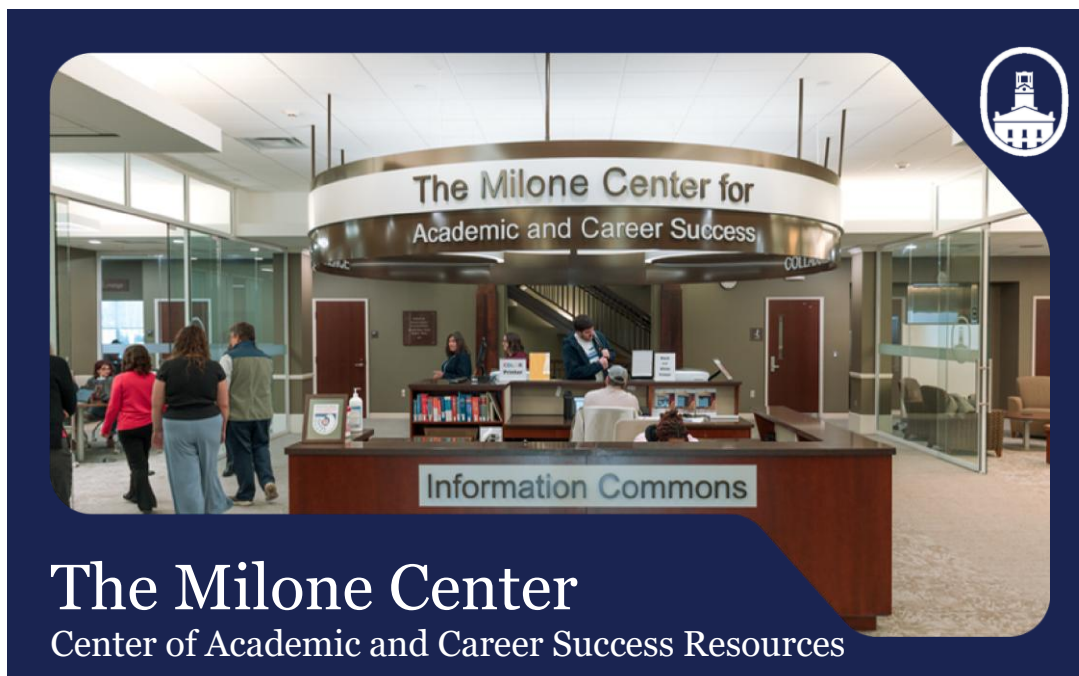


Marietta College

MAKE IT
HAPPEN!



VOLUME 5
ISSUE 1
MARCH 2026



The Milone Center

Center of Academic and Career Success Resources

Dear Friends,

I am excited to share that I have recently stepped into a new role as the Executive Director of the newly established Milone Center for Academic and Career Success at Marietta College. This new center represents an important step forward in how we support our students, bringing together key resources, people, and programs around a shared purpose.

Our vision is clear:

The Milone Center for Academic and Career Success envisions a campus where every Marietta College student has a clear sense of purpose and the academic skills to pursue it.

Our mission guides how we bring that vision to life:

The Milone Center uses a collaborative, relational approach to deliver programming and support that empowers students to succeed on campus and thrive after graduation.

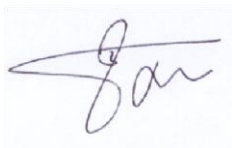
Located on the first floor of Legacy Library, the Milone Center connects students to a wide range of resources, including Library Research Support; the Academic Resource Center (including Academic Coaching and Academic Tutoring in Bartlett); Global and Experiential Education; the Writing and Speech Studios; and Career Development. The broader Milone network also includes the Entrepreneurship Program and Accessibility Services (Thomas Hall). Each of these areas continues to operate with its own expertise and focus, while also coming together in new and meaningful ways to better serve our students.

Although the Center is already up and running, we look forward to celebrating our formal grand opening at the beginning of the 2026–27 academic year. In the meantime, I am energized by the opportunity to work alongside my colleagues to design and implement creative, collaborative programs that enhance student success—both inside and outside the classroom.

Our ultimate goal is simple but powerful: to help students discover their purpose, build the skills they need to pursue it, and transition with confidence into life after graduation.

I look forward to sharing more of this journey with you in the months ahead.

— Jackie



Jacqueline Khorassani, Ph.D.

Executive Director, Milone Center for Academic and Career Success



While the Milone Center team is newly formed, its members are already experiencing the value of collaboration. Below, they highlight their programs and the added impact of working together.



Rachelle England Smith, Writing Center Studio Director

“In the Milone Center, I run The Writing Studio. We offer peer support for undergraduates. We like to say we can help with any writing project, in any class, at any stage. Students can schedule one-on-one appointments or just drop in. Our philosophy is based on the process theory of writing, so we look at every project as an opportunity for a student to grow as a writer rather than just to produce a paper. This is a really dignifying approach that helps students with confidence and skills they will use in every area of their lives.



I enjoy working with my staff of nine student tutors from disciplines across campus because of the mentorship cycle I see at work. I share strategies and equip them, and then they, in turn, meet with students and help them to grow. My tutors tell me how rewarding it is to “see the moment things finally click” and that they love sharing joy with others, seeing students “grow into their own writing styles,” and watching their confidence grow as they work together. My number one priority in selecting my tutors is empathy, which really characterizes the experience students have when they visit the Writing Studio. My staff members don’t just help break down the writing process; they are also familiar with the professors, classes, and the personal challenges that come with developing as a writer and a person.

So far, the Milone Center has created an opportunity for the Writing Studio to collaborate with research librarians Peter Thayer and Joe Straw, giving students the ability to schedule appointments with them through the Writing Studio’s scheduling system. Peter and Joe are already serving many students through this collaboration, even within just a couple of weeks

Also, not too long ago, Cole Longcor, student life staff, organized a program focusing on reading for relaxation. Through collaboration with the Writing Studio and the Legacy Library, Cole hosted this event in the Milone Center, with the Library adding a cart of popular-level books to enhance the experience.”



Lindsay Morgan, Director of Accessibility Services



“I am the Director of Accessibility Services and have been at MC since July 2023. I hold a Master's in Family Studies and have several years of experience in behavioral health, as well as several years in higher ed. I was fortunate to be able to combine those two areas into this position. I serve students with disabilities by providing accommodations, support, and advocacy. My office manages all academic and housing accommodations, which runs the spectrum of testing accommodations to flexible attendance for students with chronic illness.

I work closely with other campus resources to ensure that students have a holistic sense of support, with the intent of meeting needs that accommodations do not address. Students can come to me at any point throughout their college experience, but it is particularly impactful to work with them for all four years and see the tremendous growth in each of them.”



Amanda Haney-Cech, Senior Director of the Academic Resource Center

“The Academic Resource Center team is so excited to be in their new offices within the Milone Center on the first floor of the Legacy Library.

Academic success coaching and monitored study tables have relocated to the beautiful, open, welcoming spaces where students are able to connect with other support resources, like meetings with the research librarians or Writing Studio tutors. There has been a flurry of activity with 828 study hours logged by 67 unique users in the first six weeks. Students are able to check out kits with several colors of dry-erase markers and an eraser to use the whiteboards as a study tool, especially in small group study teams. The Academic Success Coaches have been hard at work helping students set their goals for the semester, then introducing strategies and skills to support these efforts. In the first six weeks, there have been 373

coaching meetings held. The ARC Tutoring & Learning Center team has also been hard at work in the Rickey Science Center. There have been 65 one-on-one tutoring appointments held in 19 different courses (these numbers do not account for the group tutoring sessions) in the first few weeks of the semester. Upcoming plans for the ARC include the always popular De-Stress with Dogs event, and the Study Summit to help build academic community as students focus on their academic work.”



Dr. Cheongmi Shim, Director of the Speech Studio



“The Speech Studio offers one-to-one peer consultation services to all Marietta College students who want to strengthen their public speaking skills. Students can receive support in every stage of the communication process, including speech development (clarifying messages, organizing ideas, and conducting research), speech delivery through guided rehearsals that focus on effective verbal and nonverbal communication, and the creation of presentation aids such as PowerPoint slides and poster designs to enhance visual impact. The Studio also provides English Conversation Partners for students whose first language is not English, offering individualized sessions to build confidence in topical conversations and to better understand the cultural context of American English communication. All services are provided by trained peer consultants with extensive experience in public speaking and communication. Through these diverse programs, the Speech Studio helps students build confidence and achieve excellence in public speaking and professional communication.”



Angela Burdiss, Director of Legacy Library



“The Legacy Library is here to support Marietta College students, faculty, and staff with a full range of research and academic services. Conveniently located at the center of campus, the Library offers evening hours throughout the week and provides access to nearly 250,000 books, media, government documents, and periodicals through its discover service, Legacy OneSearch. Users can receive personalized research assistance at the Reference Desk either in person or virtually and access more than 100 research databases from anywhere by logging into Legacy OneSearch. If the Library doesn’t own what you need, materials can be requested from OhioLINK’s consortium of academic libraries or through Interlibrary Loan. Additional resources include computer workstations, group study rooms, and various study spaces. The Special Collections department, home to rare books, manuscripts, and photographs, is available for onsite research. Whether you’re starting a project, searching for articles, or exploring archival materials, the Legacy Library is ready to help you succeed.”



Kelsey Lavender, Director of Global & Experimental Education



“Through the newly reimagined Global and Experiential Education program, Marietta College is strengthening its commitment to student success. The Milone Center has made it possible for my office to partner more closely with Career Development, enhancing students’ access to international internships and expanding their global perspective. The Center has also made it easier to collaborate with the Academic Resource Center, Accessibility Services, and the Writing and Speech Studios to ensure that students who study abroad are well-supported and positioned for success.

The College further increases access to international education through structured advising, financial aid portability and significant funding opportunities, including grants of up to \$15,000 for qualifying students. These efforts help reduce financial barriers and reinforce Marietta’s mission to develop globally minded leaders equipped with cross-cultural communication and professional skills.

Together, these initiatives reflect Marietta College’s broader vision of combining academic rigor with real-world experience. Through global engagement and centralized student support, the institution is building a comprehensive ecosystem that empowers students to explore grow and transition confidently into their careers.”



Ricci Bailey '14, Assistant Director of Career Development



“The Office of Career Development is excited to collaborate across campus to enhance the student experience at Marietta College, both inside and beyond the classroom. Experiential education plays a vital role in helping students develop meaningful skills and explore opportunities for life after graduation.

Through partnerships with programs such as study abroad, the office helps connect students to international internship opportunities that broaden their global perspective. In collaboration with the Academic Resource Center, Accessibility, and the Writing and Speech Studio the team also supports students in achieving academic success as a foundation for their career goals.

Together, these efforts reflect a shared commitment to fostering experiential learning and academic growth, equipping students with the tools they need to thrive in college and beyond.”



SPRING 2026

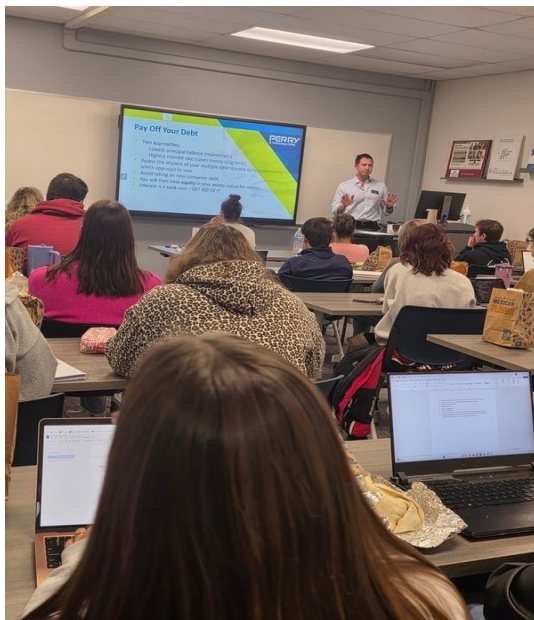
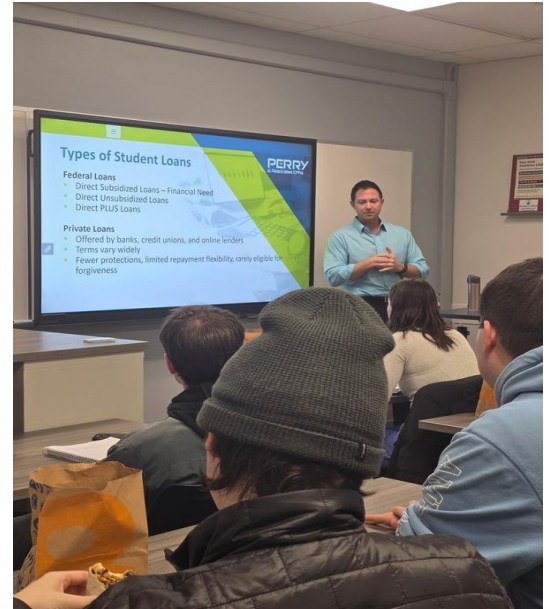
The Center's Past Events

Preparing Students for Successful Futures.

Life After Graduation: Part 1 | Managing Debt

February 4th, 2026

In this event, students prepared for life after graduation by gaining insights into managing their budgets and expenses. Bret Burns '15, Director of Assurance at Perry & Associates, explained the potential impact of student loans on post-college debt and shared practical strategies for successful repayment.



Life After Graduation: Part 2 | Budgeting

February 11th, 2026

Bret Burns '15 returned for the event to help students build a practical plan for financial stability. Burns walked students through how to create a realistic budget, prioritize essential expenses and savings, and set achievable short-term and long-term financial goals.

Life After Graduation: Part 3 | Employment Documents,

February 18th, 2026

Part 3 of Life After Graduation prepared students for post-graduation employment by providing valuable insights into the essential documents they will encounter in the workforce. Caprice Hudson - Director of Human Resources at the College - walked students through key paperwork related to taxes, medical benefits, and retirement.



Speed Mock Interviews,

March 5th, 2026

Students were able to sharpen their interviews skills in a fast-paced, supportive setting with entrepreneurship program mentors. Rotating through a series of short mock interviews, answering common questions, and receiving immediate practical feedback from multiple professions - students were able to improve quickly and gain confidence while networking.



Our program prides itself in the ability to offer a diverse range of programs and resources designed to equip our students for success. Below is Part 2 of our Spring 2026 Programs:

[PioSolve Hackathon](#)

Saturday, March 28th, 2026

4:30-6:30 p.m. – Thomas Hall Room 124

Come watch Marietta students compete in the PioSolve Hackathon as they present creative, practical solutions to a timely problem. You'll see multidisciplinary teamwork, sharp pitching, and strategies designed to be put into action. Plus, teams compete for cash prizes. Sponsored by the **Center for Appalachian Innovation** at Marietta College.





Job Talk

Thursday, April 2nd 2026

7:15-8:15 p.m. – Thomas Hall Room 327

Join this informal panel discussion to hear inspiring stories of how individuals found their purpose through non-linear career journeys. Learn how they navigated unexpected paths—graduating with one goal in mind and ending up doing something completely different—and gain insights and encouragement for your own unique career journey.

Junior PioBiz Problem/Solution Competition

Thursday, April 22nd 2026

3:00-5:00 p.m. – The Gathering Place

Come support the next generation of innovators! In this Junior PioBiz pitch competition, local high school students will present creative ideas that address real-world problems and explain the solutions they've designed.





PioBiz Competition Round 2: Proof of Concept

Thursday, April 23rd, 2026

3:00-5:00 p.m. – Thomas Hall Room 124

Be part of the excitement as students compete in Round 2 of the PioBiz Competition: Proof of Concept, where they demonstrate that their business models are desirable, feasible, and viable. Attend to support your peers, get inspired, and cast your vote for your favorite idea. Your presence—and your vote—help spotlight the most promising innovations!

End of the Year Award Ceremony and Networking

Saturday, May 2, 2026

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

The Great Room - Andrews

Celebrate student achievements from the entire 2025–26 academic year at our End-of-Year Awards Ceremony and Networking Event! Join us at 12:30 p.m. for a time of recognition, connection, and fun. Enjoy lunch from Qdoba's Hot Bar, meet fellow students, and network with faculty, mentors, and local professionals. Don't miss this memorable way to wrap up the year!



Junior PioBiz

BUSINESS START-UP COMPETITION

MARIETTA COLLEGE

**Pitch your idea.
Win prizes.
Build your future.**

Win Cash and in-kind prizes

**A pitch competition for high school students
grades 9-12 Including Home School**

solve real-world problems with business ideas.

📅 April 16, 2026

🕒 3:00-5:00 p.m.

📍 Gathering Place, Marietta College

Cash Prizes from \$50 to \$250

APPLY BY APRIL 2, 2026

For More Information Visit:
<https://www.marietta.edu/jr-piobiz>



Questions: email khorassj@marietta.edu



This edition of *Make It Happen!* has been created and edited by Haylyn Hiles '26 (pictured on the left).

Thank you, Sponsors!

Thank you to our Innovator.



Thank you to our Builders.

TECHGROWTH *ohio*



Thank you to our
Friends.



Thank you to our
Supporters.



Thank you to the Partial
Sponsors of our PioBiz
Competition.



Douglas C. Greene '62

The Center would like to
give a special thanks to
Douglas C. Greene '62 for
the donation of copies of
his book "Douglas".

