

Stand Out Student Awards

Ohio School Safety Center Stand Out Student Awards were selected by the Ohio Student Safety Advisory Council due to both the proactive and reactive measures that these courageous students took in order to keep their school and fellow classmates safe.

Elaina Boughman, River View Local Schools, Coshocton County

Boughman is a fifth-grade student at River Valley Intermediate School and was a key part of identifying, investigating, and mitigating a threat this year. She was involved in a conversation at night with a classmate who was making threats against the school. She notified the administration by sharing all the details and helped thwart a potential threat. Boughman was nominated by her Principal, Jarred Renner.

Joanna Hamilton, Felicly-Franklin Local Schools, Clermont County

Hamilton is a 2024 graduate and led two initiatives this year: Sleep in heavenly peace and a high school mock crash. Through her leadership, 224 beds were built in one weekend to give to students throughout the county who were without beds. She was instrumental in organizing the event of over 200 students and adult volunteers. Through the mock crash event, she brought awareness to drinking and texting and driving. Additionally, she helped create a wall in the bathroom where female students can post uplifting messages to support mental health. Hamilton was nominated by her School Counselor, Kristin Baird.

Stand Out Staff Awards

Ohio School Safety Center Stand Out Staff Awards were selected due to their passion and drive they exhibit to keep their schools and students safe – physically, emotionally, and educationally.

Dennis Vance — Head Custodian, West Clermont School District (Middle School), Clermont County

Vance is involved in the day-to-day workings of the school facility. He is approachable and always willing to help. He builds strong relationships with the students and faculty. Because of this, staff and students are willing to share with him areas of safety and any safety concerns. Vance is a vital member of our WCMS safety team. He assists with all the safety drills and debriefs. His strong knowledge base about school and safety requirements makes him an excellent member of the team to express gaps and areas or improvements. On daily basis, Vance assists staff and students in things like doors not properly locking. In addition, he provides support for staff on things like water spills, and other safety concerns that rise throughout the day. Vance is constantly walking the grounds and facility and is able to spot potholes, missing lights, bee hives, etc. He works to remedy these issues immediately. Vance was nominated by their Principal, Traci Rea.

**School Resource Officer Jim Souhrada, Edgewood City Schools (Intermediate School),
Butler County**

Souhrada always goes out of his way to serve his school community. He assists with arrival and dismissal daily as well as responds to student crises (i.e. classroom evacuations due to aggressive student/s, locating parents/guardians when the school is unable to contact them, coordinating with local law enforcement about community issues that stem from school, etc.). Souhrada enthusiastically runs an Individualized Recess Plan (IRP) where he works with students either one-on-one or in small groups during recess on physical activities where the student/s can practice appropriate behavioral choices in a safe and supportive environment. Students who have been assigned IRP enjoy their time with Souhrada as well as learn about safe and healthy ways to release physical energy. As a county Behavior Intervention Coach, he is the only school resource officer in the county that maintains an IRP program as a way to assist in addressing student behavior in the school he serves. Souhrada makes a concerted effort to check in with students who struggle behaviorally on a daily basis. This can include knowing the various students' schedules and popping in during class, offering jobs that students can complete with him as well as constantly being visual throughout the school building throughout the school day. Souhrada was nominated by Behavioral Intervention Coach, Dr. Rebecca Wilson.

**Jeff Futo — Public Safety, Emergency & Special Services Manager, Kent State University,
Portage County**

Futo was a police officer at Kent State University for 26 years. He served 15 years as a patrol officer and 11 years as a police officer/Emergency and Special Services Specialist. In this specialist role, he coordinated public safety initiatives at nine campuses, two satellite locations, and a campus abroad (Florence, Italy). He also coordinates all the public safety technology which includes mass notification, surveillance camera, and alarm systems. He is involved with emergency preparedness, planning, and training. He coordinates the regional campuses' security officers, providing them with public safety guidance and training. Futo has developed and implemented many public safety initiatives that have bettered the overall safety of the university. Futo has a position at the university where he can identify gaps and develop solutions to address them. Many of the initiatives described were self-initiated once the need was determined. Futo has the ability to bring people, departments, and external partners together to collaborate and progress. He has retired as a police officer and has returned in a manager's position to help further public safety needs for community of students, staff, faculty, and visitors. Futo was nominated by Kent State's Emergency Management Coordinator, Vince Marino.



**Jon Lemen — Director of Risk and Emergency Management, Clark State College,
Clark County**

Lemen serves in a pivotal position that has grown and evolved to support changing College needs and requirements. Charged with cultivating a robust safety, security, awareness, and risk culture, Lemen plays a crucial role in upholding Clark State’s commitment to fostering a culture of care and support among all members of its community, including students, faculty, staff, and community members. Lemen brought with him a wealth of experience spanning decades in public safety, serving as a Medic, Firefighter, and Sheriff’s Deputy for nearly 20 years. Throughout his distinguished career, Lemen garnered numerous accolades at local, regional, and national levels for his unwavering commitment to service, community engagement, and life-saving efforts. What sets Lemen apart is his genuine focus on connecting with individuals on a personal level. He doesn’t just see safety and security as mandates to be followed; rather, he collaborates with people to understand their concerns and works directly with them to bridge the gap between protocols and peace of mind. Given the diverse nature of Clark State, Lemen’s varied background and his passion for inclusive engagement have been instrumental in fostering a culture centered on safety. Lemen was nominated by Senior Vice President, Matt Franz.