

Mortuary



Minutes

# Transforming Death Care Education

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40

**IDEAS TO IMPROVE  
YOUR FUNERAL  
SERVICE  
QUALITY**

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**March 8 is CCMS Founder's Day.**

[Click here to participate in the Class Year Challenge!](#)



## **Message from the President**

### **CCMS President & CEO Jack E. Lechner, Jr.**

Greetings,

I want to start the new year by expressing my appreciation to faculty, staff, Board members and volunteers for the all the hard work that they did during the 2022 calendar year. It was a year filled with much change, many accomplishments, and many successes. Here are a few:

- Broke ground on our construction of the new Educational Cremation Center, realigned our parking lots and prepared for demolition in January and construction thereafter
- Graduated 14 students in the 2022 spring semester and 55 in the 2022 fall semester
- Successfully completed a self-study and site visit with ABFSE, which resulted in a seven-year accreditation reaffirmation
- Realigned our academic calendar with 14-week terms which brought consistency to our academic schedule
- Added a Technology in Funeral Service course
- Reconfigured the previous library into a full service Learning Resources Center, and hired a new Director of Learning Resources and Student Services
- Relocated our merchandising room and aligned it with the ability to recruit students through Admissions
- Hired a new admissions director, faculty member, director of professional education, and administrative coordinator
- Significantly increased our continuing education programs
- Transitioned to a new IT services provider and will continue to enhance IT services while containing costs
- Reinvigorated our partnership with the Ohio Funeral Directors Association and co-sponsored a Job Fair to connect students to employers

This list demonstrates just some of the great achievements that are occurring. Many others have been completed and are underway. All this great work could not have been done without the commitment of the entire CCMS family.

I also want to inform you of some changes that will take effect in 2023:

- Todd Van Beck has joined CCMS to serve as the Program Director and Director of Continuing Education. Todd's vast wealth of knowledge and experience certainly afford us with the skillset to provide leadership to the mortuary science program and I am looking forward to his work in this role.
- With the number of projects currently underway, Toby Day has transitioned to full-time administration and part time teaching. Toby will continue to teach cremation related courses as needed, and serve as Director of Business Services and Educational Cremation Center. In this role among other things, Toby will take responsibility for human resources functions. In addition, he will manage the ECC lab.
- Jerome Webster has transitioned from Interim Dean to Dean of the College. Jerome has agreed to serve the college for another year, and we look forward to working with him in his role.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, let me extend my best wishes to you for a the healthiest and happiest new year. May 2023 bring us peace and prosperity!

Very Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jack E. Lechner, Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

President and CEO

**[View President Lechner's construction update video here!](#)**

# Continuing Education Corner



## Upcoming Continuing Education Sessions

### Infant Embalming Techniques

March 29, 2023

3 CEUs

### ICCFA Crematory Operator Certification Program

May 25, 2023

7 CEUs

### Calming Clients in the Funeral Home

Date tbd

3 CEUs

In-person sessions will take place at:  
Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science

645 W. North Bend Rd.  
Cincinnati, OH 45224

[For more info and to register click here >>](#)

Questions?

Email us at [coned@ccms.edu](mailto:coned@ccms.edu)

# Inside Death Care



## 40 Ideas to Improve Funeral Service Quality

### The first in an occasional series

by Todd Van Beck

All of us who are called to this profession strive every day serve our families, employees - everyone we come in contact with - as respectfully, sympathetically, thoughtfully and yes professionally as we possibly can. Here are a few ideas to help improve the quality of your service. I'll have other more specific idea on how to improve on other areas in the coming months, so stay tuned.

1. AWARDS/PLAQUES - Compile all company awards and individual plaques, etc., and arrange them on a prominent wall in the funeral home for better exposure and effect.
2. DONATION BOX - Have a donation box for people to drop off clothing and/or canned food—goods that the funeral home will periodically deliver to the appropriate shelters or charities.
3. MEALS ON WHEELS - Sponsor Meals on Wheels once a month or sponsor meals at a food kitchen periodically.
4. PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM - Set up a program for widows, widowers and bereaved families as part of the after-care program where information is presented on how to live alone or in changing circumstances, cooking meals, banking, cleaning, laundry, household management, etc.
5. PHONE CARDS - Give "phone me" certificates, with the funeral home logo on them, to families so they can contact out-of-town relatives to inform them of death and/or funeral arrangements.
6. CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA - Install a playground set on funeral home property for children's use during visitation times.
7. JUMP START ACKNOWLEDGEMENT - Enclose postage for the first 20 pieces of acknowledgement stationery.
8. BOOKMARKS - Provide good quality leather or cloth bookmarks, with the funeral home logo on them, with the register book and paper products.
9. HOORAY FOR HOLLYWOOD! - Sponsor a movie night once a month at a shelter, residence hall, senior citizen center, etc. Include sodas and popcorn.
10. FEED THE SCOUTS - Find out the dates of Scout meetings in your town and, every quarter, send pizzas over to feed the kids.
11. CLEAN CAR PROGRAM - Buy car wash tickets in books of 3 – 5 and give to families at the time of arrangement. They can have their cars washed so they are clean for the procession. Have the carwash validate used tickets so they can't be reused.
12. PALLBEARERS CREATIVITY - Offer eight shoulder-carrying pallbearers. Families can choose this option to give more class to the funeral. This is dignity not seen much today.
13. VETERAN'S NAME BOARD - Set up a name board under the funeral home's flag when a veteran dies. List all military service information. Take a picture for the family.
14. CRAYONS - Keep a supply of crayons and inexpensive coloring books for children's use during calling hours. Also, have a storybook available.
15. ETHNIC CONSIDERATIONS - Have refreshments and foods available for special groups of people. Example: for Italian families, have Italian pastries and espresso coffee; for German families, have sliced sausages and different breads, etc.
16. MINTS/CANDY - Have a dish of mints or candy in each room.



*Continued >>*

## 40 Ideas *continued*

17. SENIOR TRANSPORTATION - Pick up seniors at nursing centers for visitation.
18. FAMILY TRANSPORTATION - Pick up the family for visitation time.
19. FOOD AT HOME - Send a fruit basket or basket of coffees, teas and biscuits to each family who has just completed arrangements. This expresses concern and thanks them for placing their trust in the funeral home.
20. PAPER - Have different cards and folders available for different ethnic groups.
21. FEED AT THE FUNERAL HOME - Cater in for the family if they are going to stay over the supper hour.
22. MOURNING BADGES - Provide black ribbons and/or arm bands for families to use on lapels or dresses. This is easy identification for visitors.
23. HOTEL, CHURCH, CEMETERY DIRECTIONS - Provide a list of all hotels, church and cemetery directions for families.
24. DIRECTOR CHECK-UP - Require each funeral director to personally check up on each family several times during visitation.
25. F.D. REPLY - Have funeral directors reply to all "thank you" letters.
26. FRESHEN UP ROOM/NAP ROOM - Have a room in the funeral home where family members can change clothes, freshen up or even take a nap.
27. PARTNER DIRECTORS - Partner directors so that, after arrangements are made, the second person will not be a stranger. This is especially important with changing shifts.
28. BASEBALL CAPS AND T-SHIRTS - Give these to all funeral home employees. They're great morale builders.
29. MEMORIAL BOOK - Put out a memorial book (mahogany) on a nice table in the foyer of the funeral home. All deceased people have their names engraved and beside the book is a candle that is always burning (eternal flame).
30. TELL YOUR STORY - Promote the funeral home at mall shows. This is a great way to give out information and offer water to mall walkers.
31. FALL COLOR TOUR - Meet at the funeral home and rent a bus to take people to see the fall tree colors. Furnish a light lunch.
32. CLERGY LIAISON - At each funeral, someone sits with the clergy and show them great attention. Then, periodically, ask if they would like to fill out a questionnaire.
33. OUT-OF-TOWN VISITOR PACK - Have a package of information available to families expecting out-of-town visitors. Include current maps, transportation/schedules, hotels, restaurants, etc.
34. HOTEL RESTAURANT DISCOUNTS - Make arrangements for your families to get a discount for food and lodging.
35. GUIDE TO SPECIALTY SERVICES - Have a readily-available guide for specially requested services, such as cleanup and disinfection, appraisal services for house contents and furnishings, referrals for real estate agents, videographer, home watch service, storage facilities, etc.
36. THE TOWN SCRAPBOOK - Use old pictures of the funeral home and local sights, some of construction home additions, as well as new pictures of the staff. Use this as an icebreaker and on tours and visits.
37. TRUST THE DRIVER - On the final evening of visitation, introduce the family, including a business card, to the driver who will be picking them up the next day. Have the driver ask any questions about directions, traffic, etc.
38. COMMUNITY EVENTS BOARD - Provide a board outside the funeral home for the community's use.
39. COUNTRY FLAG - On a small stand, insert a flag of the deceased's birthplace country beside the register stand. Give it to the family after the funeral.
40. GRAVEDIGGERS - At Christmas, send fruit baskets to all cemetery gravediggers. This shows appreciation.



# **2nd Annual CCMS Golf Classic**

**Presented by**

**Dignity®  
MEMORIAL**



Thanks to everyone who came out to the Mill Course on September 14, 2022 for a great day of golf, fellowship and fun! Because of your support we were able to raise more than \$30,000 for CCMS! Funds such as these are vital in helping keep the cost of tuition affordable for our students while allowing us to provide them with the finest death care education possible.

Extra special thanks to our Golf Classic Committee:

Steve Bittner

Tim King

Karen Sharpe

Thanks also to our terrific team of on-site volunteers! We couldn't have made it happen without you:

Jan Borgman

Janelle Dunseth

Duane Hedrick

Garrison Murray

Brittany Pugh

See photos from the event on the following pages and on our social media platforms.

**Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual CCMS Golf Classic  
on Sept. 20th, 2023!**





**2nd Annual  
CCMS Golf Classic**

Presented by



*Thanks to our Sponsors!*

**LifeCenter Organ Donor Network**  
**Rosenacker & Associates**  
**Mihovk-Rosenacker Funeral Homes**  
**American Coach Sales**  
**ClearPoint Federal Bank & Trust**  
**Funeral Directors Life**  
**Gate of Heaven Cemetery**  
**Heartland Preneed**  
**Inman Worldwide Shipping**  
**Lemasters Consulting/Dead Ringers**  
**Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions**  
**Neidhard Young Funeral Home**  
**Newcomer Funeral Service Group**  
**Karen Sharpe**  
**T.P. White & Sons**  
**Taft Law**  
**Uncaged Software**  
**Brown-Dawson-Flick Funeral Home**  
**Nomis Publications**

## **Spring 2022 Commencement**

Commencement for the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science Spring Class of 2022 took place on April 16 at the Summit Hotel in Madisonville. Degrees were conferred upon 15 graduates, including those receiving Latin honors (listed below). The Commencement address was delivered by long-time death care professional Gary Freytag.

Thanks to everyone who attended and congratulations to all of our graduates!

### Summa Cum Laude (GPA 4.0—3.85)

Farrah Jade Morgan  
Hanna Marie Schaffer  
Alexandra G. Skaggs  
Shaundra Lynn Whitaker  
Laura Woodward



### Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.84—3.70)

Alyssa Ann Webster



### Cum Laude (GPA 3.69-3.5)

Madalyn Paige Ruby



## Fall 2022 Commencement

Commencement for the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science Fall Class of 2022 took place on December 9 at the Sharonville Convention Center. Degrees were conferred upon 55 graduates, including those receiving Latin honors (listed below). The Commencement address was delivered by Matthew R. Bailey, CFSP.

Thanks to everyone who attended and congratulations to all of our graduates!

### Summa Cum Laude (GPA 4.0—3.85)

Jillian R. Allen  
Kylie Nicole Allen  
Brianna A. Dishman  
Janelle Diane Dunseth  
Shane Peter Faske  
Audrey Gonzalez  
Tallie J. Kerr  
Hunter Kyle Kreglow  
Molly Mott  
Laci Poe  
Katelyn Michele Roback  
Taylor Jane Tackis  
Sydney J. Theriot  
Christian Paul Witchey  
Kayleen DeEtt Witt



### Magna Cum Laude (GPA 3.84—3.70)

Nadia Aladimi  
Alexis Nicole King  
Maryanna Catherine Pappas  
Kayla S. Uzzo



### Cum Laude (GPA 3.69-3.5)

Charlotte Grace Dahlquist  
Robert Benjamin Faulhaber  
Julianna Renae Mae Land  
Brianna Melanson  
Lauren Michelle Miller  
Garrison Scott Murray  
Lauren Ashley Royall





## Q. & A. with 2022 Alum Janelle Dunseth

Janelle Dunseth is a 2022 graduate of CCMS. She was a class officer and sorority member as well as a recipient of scholarships from SCI as well as the Ohio Funeral Directors Association. Before she embarked on her busy new professional life, she took a few minutes to chat with us about her experience at CCMS and her hopes for the future.

This interview has been lightly edited for length and clarity.

### Q. Tell us a little bit about yourself – where you grew up, family, etc.

I was born in Toledo, OH and was raised just outside of Columbus before returning to Toledo for college (Go Rockets!!). I'm incredibly fortunate to come from a supportive family of hard working parents and multiple siblings, of whom I am the first to graduate college. Throughout high school, I enjoyed participating in technical theatre. In college I was an active member of my beloved Panhellenic sorority, Delta Phi Epsilon, and a Resident Assistant in the dorms, where I worked full time post-graduation before attending CCMS. Nowadays, I enjoy reading, spending time outdoors and with my cats, and playing Dance Dance Revolution in arcades.



### Q. Everyone who makes the decision to enter the death care profession has their own reasons for doing so. What led you to pursue this career?

Honestly, I've wanted to be a funeral director since around middle school or early high school. I come from a relatively large family and am fortunate to have had relationships with plenty of extended family members; my grandparents, great grandparents, great aunts and uncles etc. However, one caveat of this was attending plenty of funerals while growing up. While I don't have any one service in particular that stands out, I do remember eventually thinking '*Hey, I think I could really enjoy helping people in this way,*' and beginning to do more research into it. I tried to pursue other career paths after high school because I was incredibly intimidated by the science/embalming portion of the job, but I realized that I wasn't going to be happy doing anything else.

### Q. During your time at CCMS you have served as a class officer, sorority member and have volunteered for multiple school events. Can you talk a bit about those experiences?

Volunteering and being an active member of my community is very important to me. As funeral directors, I feel we are in a very privileged position to serve and be *that person* for those around us. Feeling this way and having this passion naturally led me to getting involved as class representative, a member of the school's sorority, and with multiple school events.

I had so much fun with everything we did! Getting to plan events and having a positive impact made my time at the school more meaningful, and pushed me to be a better student. CCMS is a wealth of knowledge and history, and it was so exciting to share that with people at open houses, too. If we want to see the future of our profession thrive, it's necessary to give back to it and give back to those who are starting their journey into it. I am very honored that I got to do that during my time at CCMS.

*Continued >>*

## Q. & A. with 2022 Alum Janelle Dunseth (cont.)

**Q. You were the recipient of multiple scholarships, including one from the Ohio Funeral Directors Association. What impact has that had on your ability to attend CCMS and what advice would you give to other students who might be considering applying for scholarships?**

It's no secret that education is a huge expense. As a first generation college student, navigating the murky depths of tuition, loans, and financial aid while trying to find a place to work and live, *and* while trying to maintain my studies was intimidating. In fact, I delayed my original acceptance to CCMS in 2019 in order to work full time for a few years to better afford it. The scholarships that I earned lifted a massive weight off my shoulders. With this financial help, I was able to better focus on school and my own personal and professional development.

Regardless of the financial incentives, all of my scholarship applications and interviews were also excellent networking opportunities. I met so many incredibly kind and encouraging people in this profession this way, which also led to employment opportunities. I even bonded with fellow classmates as we discussed our applications. To anyone even thinking about applying for a scholarship:

Please, go for it! There's literally a dearth of applicants for *free money*! How insane is that? You never know what doors may open if you don't put yourself out there.



Janelle with CCMS Board Member Tim King at the CCMS 2022 Golf Classic

**Q. Attending college is often a life-altering experience. How do you think your time at CCMS has changed you (if at all)?**

My time at CCMS certainly inspired a lot of confidence in myself. With no prior funeral home experience, there was that very small doubt that maybe this profession wasn't for me; that I'd hate it, that I wouldn't be able to pass my classes, or that I'd faint in the lab. All such doubts were washed away in the first few days on campus. Additionally, it is such a freeing feeling to be around people who *get it*. I think we can all admit that this profession is a bit of a curiosity, and even a bit taboo depending on with whom you're speaking. Being surrounded by peers, staff, and faculty that understand you and your passions, and who want you to succeed, is almost cathartic. Though it feels like my time at CCMS was over in the blink of an eye, I am grateful for the lifelong friendships and bonds I made there.

**Q. Now that you have graduated, what's next?**

I will be starting my one year apprenticeship back home in the Columbus area. After living away from home for so long, I am excited to spend time with my family—especially my niece and her soon-to-arrive little sister. After that, it's hard to say what comes next! I am looking forward to starting my career, and hope to find a community to serve in which I can plant roots and grow personally and professionally.

## Attention Alumni!

Join us at the CCMS Alumni Reception

Wednesday, April 26

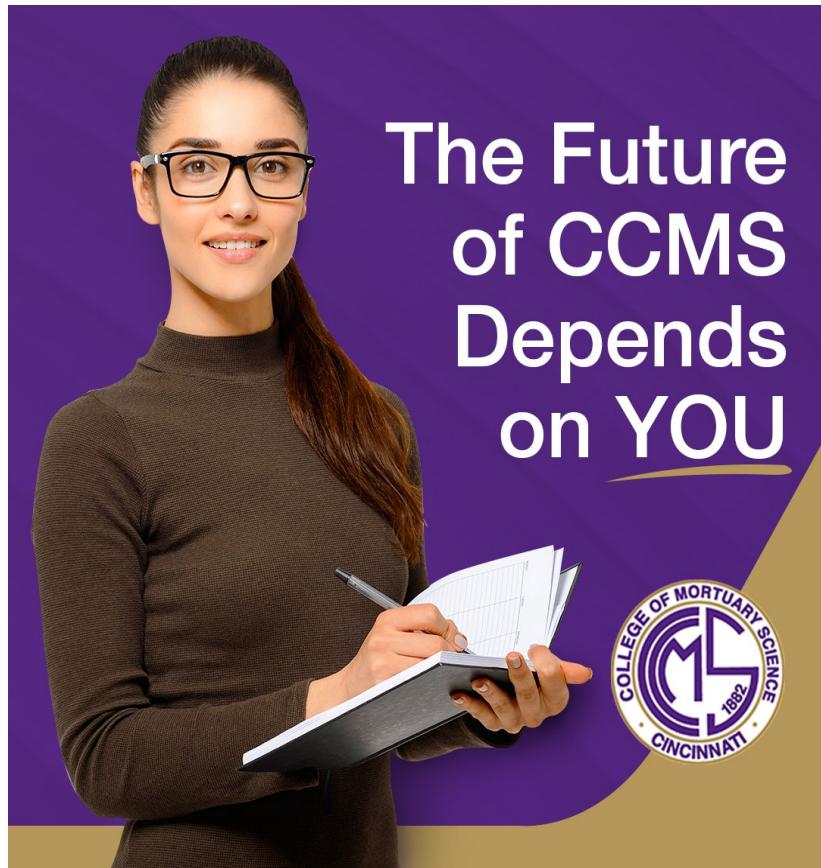
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

Ohio Funeral Directors Association Convention

The Magnolia Room in the Hilton Columbus at Easton

[Registration is Free! Click here!](#)

# 1882 ALUMNI SOCIETY



As a CCMS alumnus, you know how seriously we take our mission of educating the next generation of funeral service professionals. We're proud of our reputation as the "Harvard of Mortuary Colleges," which we've worked very hard to preserve for over 135 years.

But we're not resting on our laurels. We're leading the way in deathcare education through the construction of the nation's only Educational Crematory Center (ECC).

**That's where you come in!**

By joining the 1882 Alumni Society, which honors the rich history of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science while also paving a way for the future, you won't just be showing your CCMS pride, you'll also be helping us build this important facility, right here on our Cincinnati campus.

**[Click here to learn more and join!](#)**

# 1882 ALUMNI SOCIETY

CCMS thanks these valued alumni for their support in 2022

## **President's Circle**

James R. Bayliff  
Frank Rosenacker  
Rob Rue  
Timothy Schmidt  
Randy Schoedinger

## **Founder's Circle**

Richard Geib

## **Partner's Circle**

William Peoples

## **Supporter's Circle**

Charles Anderson  
Stephen Herget  
Kimberly Ogle

## **Apprentice's Circle**

Thane Liming  
Tyler O'Brien  
Craig Wise



## Todd Van Beck Joins CCMS Team

In 2022, CCMS was thrilled to welcome Todd Van Beck as its new Director of Professional Education. Todd brings with him more than 50 years of experience in the death care profession. He is one of the most widely published authors in the field with 600 journal/magazine articles and 65 training manuals to his credit. Todd has been an active writer and speaker internationally for many decades covering most every topic that is relevant to our profession.

Growing up in Southwestern Iowa, Todd declared at the young age of 5 years old that he would become a funeral director when he grew up. "I am still growing up," says Todd. "I am still learning, still trying to make some kind or worthy contribution to my beloved profession." Todd has operated funeral homes, cemeteries and mortuary colleges. He has selflessly served the death care profession in many arenas across the nation, which satisfied his desire to see the world.

Todd was a member of the CCMS faculty in the 1980's and says, "I am humbled to return to CCMS where I plan to continue my mission to serve."

Be on the look-out for upcoming continuing education sessions. Todd's presentations are many and varied and not to be missed! A list of currently scheduled sessions can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.



Todd Van Beck

## Dr. Jerome Webster to Continue as Dean of the College



Dr. Jerome Webster

In 2021, former CCMS Board member Dr. Jerome Webster graciously took on the role as Interim Dean of the College. Late in 2022, President and CEO Jack E. Lechner, Jr. announced that Dr. Webster would transition from Interim Dean to Dean of the College.

Before coming to CCMS, Dr. Webster served as president of Terra State Community College where he oversaw a realignment of curricular programs, focused on determining the distinctiveness of each academic program. Under his leadership, course completion rates improved to an all-time high of 91% in 2016. During his tenure, the College established four fully online degree programs; established the Fremont Early College with Fremont City Schools, and other similar partnerships; opened a new conference center and established a Veteran's Center.

Dr. Webster received his Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration with a concentration in human resources from Olivet College in Michigan where he also served as a Residence Hall Director and Housing Coordinator. He received his Master and Doctoral degrees from the University of Toledo. Dr. Webster is also a certified funeral celebrant.

# #ccmsfamily

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## CCMS Welcomes New Board Members

In 2022 the College was very pleased to add four new stellar members to its Board of Trustees:



Jim Flynn - Federal Retirement Advisors



Poul Lemasters - Founder, Lemasters Consulting



Laura Nobbe - Heartland PreNeed Systems, President



Dr. Jerome G. Weaver - Bereavement Services Manager,  
Vitas Healthcare



## New Staff Members Join the CCMS Family

### Codi Kindoll - Faculty/Clinical Staff



Codi Kindoll is a lifelong resident of Northern Kentucky and is currently a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer in both Kentucky and Ohio as well as a licensed Crematory Operator in Ohio. He has been working in funeral homes since he graduated from high school in 2012, where he discovered his passion for the funeral service profession.

Codi earned his Associates Degree from CCMS in 2014 and was awarded the Joel E. Crandall Award for excellence in the art of restoration. Later, he returned to CCMS to earn his BMS and his celebrant certification. Codi served his apprenticeship in 2017 at a local funeral home. He reciprocated his Kentucky licenses to Ohio in 2021 to open the door for more career opportunities.

Codi returned to CCMS in May of 2022 as a faculty and clinical faculty member. He is excited to be a part of a superlative team of death care educators and strives to provide an excellent education to future funeral service professionals.

In Codi's spare time, he enjoys DIY home projects, fishing, caring for animals, art and anything in the great outdoors. Codi also takes great pride in his gardens that feature aquatic plants, fish and many combinations of flowers and other plants.

### Mallory Maravilla-Torres - Admissions Director



Mallory Maravilla-Torres is an alumna of CCMS, receiving her Bachelor's of Mortuary Science in December of 2018. Following graduation, she accepted a job with the University of Cincinnati Medical Center Department of Pathology where she applied her knowledge from CCMS to perform autopsies and gross organ dissection.

In May 2022, Mallory came to us to fulfill the role of Admissions Director. As a Certified Crematory Operator, Certified Celebrant, and past graduate of CCMS, she can provide prospective, incoming, and current students with guidance to excel in the death care profession.

Mallory grew up on the East Side of Cincinnati, where she currently lives with her Husband, Rey, and Son, Ian. In her spare time she enjoys brunch with friends, spending time with Ian, reading, and family vacations.



### Brittany Pugh—Administrative Assistant

Brittany Pugh is the first face you see as the Front Desk Administrator. Along with her bubbly, inviting personality and love of meeting new people, Ms. Pugh supports the administrative needs of faculty, staff, and executives and event planning and coordinating.

She joined CCMS after serving in pre-K education as a preschool teacher with Child Focus. She and her husband along with their four amazing children reside on the east side of Cincinnati. In her free time she loves to travel, hike, and explore the world with her family.

In her spare time, she also serves as a front desk administrator with US Martial Arts Academy several evenings during the week. She is an avid animal lover and shares her home with four dogs and a cat.

# #ccmsfamily

*continued...*



## New Staff Members (continued)



### Tausha Ross - Director of Learning Resources and Student Services

Tausha Ross is an alumna of Wilmington College (1998), Union Institute & University (2018) and Kent State University (2021). She has been in Higher Education for over ten years, which included previously working in an Academic library. She enjoys working with students and faculty on a college campus and has operated as a Site Director and Associate Dean at Chatfield College in the last year assisting students in their educational journey for Associates & Bachelor's degrees.

After earning her Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University, Tausha decided to return back to what she loves best, which is working in a library. She loves books and considers it to be her happy space.

Tausha was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio and has a large family. She enjoys spending time with her family and spoiling the many nieces and nephews that she has. In her leisure time, she enjoys cooking, reading, decorating, shopping at HomeGoods and traveling.

Tausha is excited to be apart of the CCMS family and looks forward to assisting students, faculty and staff in the Learning Resource and Student Services Center.



## Positions Available at CCMS

[Click here to get information and learn how to apply.](#)

**View our Job Board for postings from outside employers**

[Click here](#)

A yellow banner with black text and a photo of staff members. The text reads: 'WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR OUR FACULTY & STAFF!' Below the text is a photo of several staff members standing together in an office setting. At the bottom, it says 'CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE'.

# #ccmsfamily

*continued...*



## Pattee wins Newcomer Scholarship

Newcomer Funeral Service Group announced late last November that it had chosen CCMS student Kimberly Pattee as one of the recipients of its Tradition of Caring Mortuary Science Award. Kim was one of 14 mortuary science students chosen from more than 400 applicants from all across the country.

"We are truly honored to be able to give back to the future of our profession," said Tyler Cummins, Scholarship Coordinator from Newcomer. Each year, Newcomer awards up \$25,000 in scholarships to students who demonstrate, according to Cummins, "the core Newcomer values of excellence, trust, care and growth." Kim certainly posses all those!

Congrats Kim!



Kim Pattee

## Mental Health Resources Now Available for Students

CCMS is very pleased to provide a new mental health guide designed for college students. In addition to some valuable narratives, the guide contains lists of helpful resources including apps related to coping and scholarships for those with mental health diagnoses. It can be accessed via the Student Resources tab at the bottom of the CCMS website home screen. Under Student Resources, the first heading is Safety and the second is Student Counseling Services under which this guide appears.

<https://www.ccms.edu/academics/student-resources/>

We know that more college students are struggling than ever before. Although such a guide cannot replace professional mental health care when there is a need, it is our hope that some students derive benefit from resources or suggestions provided here.

## Mugshot Monday

For this #CCMSMugshotMonday we would like to give a shout-out to members of the Christian Theological Seminary Finance and Accounting departments!

In December, they had Mary Lou Carver, Sandra Mitchell-Holder, and Scott Sims come together to discuss financial systems and to focus on sharing ideas and best practices with our respective departments.



# #ccmsfamily

*continued...*



## ***In Memory of***

### **Thomas "Tom" Jeffrey Benz**

Thomas "Tom" Jeffrey Benz, 67, of Urbana passed away on December 24, 2022, at Ohio State Wexner Medical Center surrounded by his loving family.

He was born November 7, 1955, in Springfield, Ohio the son of Bill and Frankie (Jarrell) Benz. Tom married the love of his life Anita McDonald on November 19, 1977, in the New Carlisle United Methodist Church.

He was a graduate from Northwestern high school class of 1973. He then graduated with a bachelor's degree from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1977. Tom worked as a Funeral Director and Embalmer for many years. He was a salesman for Bass-Mollett Funeral Supply for 30 plus years. He was a member of the Ohio Funeral Directors association and Ohio Embalmers Association.

Tom loved classic cars and was a member of Cadillac/ Lasalle club. Most of all he loved spending time with his family and friends.



He is survived by his loving wife of 45 years Anita Benz; his son Geoff Benz; his grandchildren Rylie, Sydnie and Maverick Benz, his brothers, Steve (Chris) Benz and Roger (Debbie) Benz; as well as several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made in Tom's memory to Lawnview Child & Family School, 2200 S US HWY 68, Urbana, Ohio, 43078.

### **John H. "Jack" Evans, Sr.**

John H. "Jack" Evans, beloved husband for 59 years to Charlotte Wortman Evans, devoted father of Johnny Evans, Charles (Lisa) Evans and Andrew (Lissa) Evans, loving grandfather of Christopher (Michelina) Evans, Nicholas (Madeline) Evans, Matthew Evans, Michael Evans, Brian (Elizabeth) Evans, Elizabeth (Marcus) Rose, Chad Evans, A.J. Evans and Meredith Evans, great-grandfather of 2, dear brother of Imogene Brossart, Eileen Wiederhold, Ferd Evans, Tom Evans and the late Stanley "Bud" Evans.

Jack was born on Main Street in Owensville, Ohio in 1938. He attended the Owensville School, was a proud graduate of St. Xavier High School, attended Xavier University and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Embalming. Jack served his country in the United States Army.

He became a funeral director in 1962 and started Evans Funeral Home in 1985; serving the Milford / Goshen and Clermont County communities for more than 60 years. He was a member of St. Andrew Parish in Milford for 59 years and served as part of the Holy Name Society for years. He coached and umpired Milford Little League Baseball for several years. Jack was an active member of the Milford Kiwanis Club for 48 years and also served on the Milford City Council for a few terms. Jack was a true sports fan. He played baseball, softball, hockey and bowled; later watching his grandchildren play sports and anything about sports on TV. During his semi-retirement, he loved the time he spent with his grandchildren driving them from place to place.

Passed away Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at the age of 83, a resident of Milford, Ohio. Family received friends at Evans Funeral Home, Milford, on Monday, June 13th. Mass of Christian Burial, Tuesday at St. Andrew Church, Milford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Kiwanis Club of Milford, 741 Center St. Milford, Ohio 45150 or the St. Andrew/St. Vincent DePaul Society, 552 Main St, Milford, Ohio 45150.

# #ccmsfamily

*continued...*



## ***In Memory of (cont.)***

### **Joseph "Joe" T. Jagers**

Joseph (Joe) T. Jagers, 92, went to be with our Lord on September 1, 2022 in Worthington. He was born on December 24, 1929 in Athens, Ohio to the late John and Erma Thomas Jagers. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by a baby brother Stephen who died at birth. Joe is survived by wife Sarah "Sally" Jagers, to whom he was married for 68 years; children; Steve (Karen) Jagers of West Chester, Ohio, Don Jagers of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Jamie Jagers of Pickerington, Ohio and Jennifer (Scott) Riegert of Columbus, Ohio, grandsons: Colby Berry, Andre Jagers, Matthew Riegert and granddaughter Jillian Riegert; a brother, Jerry (Peggy) Jagers of Athens; nieces, nephews and cousins.

Joe was a 1947 graduate of Athens High School, attended Ohio University and was a 1951 graduate of Cincinnati College of Embalming. He never knew a stranger and cherished spending time with family, friends, and anyone willing to strike up a conversation. In his younger years, he raced in motorcycle enduro "mud runs" winning numerous trophies, including the Jack Pine in Michigan. He also loved boating on Lake Cumberland, where he made many lifelong family friends. Another favorite pastime of Joe's was collecting Athens High School yearbooks, organizing and attending AHS reunions.



Joe dedicated his life to the Athens community by comforting and caring for thousands of families through the Jagers and Sons Funeral Home for over 75 years, as well as the Richland Area Fire Department for over 63 years. The family business was more than just a career for Joe, it was his life. He truly adored each and every day spent "at the office" helping families and making new friends. He was a member of the National and Ohio Funeral Directors Associations.

Joe was a founding father and one of the first volunteers of the Richland Area Fire Department helping to equip them with their very first fire engine. He moved up the ranks, serving as chief from 1958-1970 and treasurer for more than 35 years.

Joe proudly served our country during the Korean War in the United States Army, as a medic, stationed in Japan, helping his brothers in need. Joe was also a proud servant in the Masons of Paramuthia Lodge #25 F&AM (70 year member), holding position of Worshipful Master in 1960 and served as Past District Deputy Grand Master of the 17th Masonic District. He was a member of Athens York Rite Bodies (65 year member Chapter, Council, Commandery), Kiwanis Club of Athens (60 years member and George F. Hixson Fellow), Athens Chapter 175 Order of the Eastern Star (65 year member), Aladdin Temple Shrine, Athens Co. Shrine Club, Amesville Grange 798, K.T. Crossen Post 21 American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was also a Major on the Auxiliary Ohio State Highway Patrol for a number of years. Joe was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Athens and also enjoyed attending Genoa Baptist Church in Westerville, Ohio.

### **Melinda Ann (Cisco) Keiser**

Melinda Ann (Cisco) Keiser, 53 of Celina, went home to be with the Lord, Saturday, June 11, 2022 at 6:15 am, in Coldwater Hospital unexpectedly, while surrounded by her family.



She was born August 6, 1968, in Celina, Ohio the daughter of Robert L. and Karen K. (Eichenauer) Cisco. She married Joseph Keiser on February 1, 2003, and he survives in Celina. Melinda was a 1986 graduate of Celina Senior High School and continued throughout her life to support the Celina Bulldogs.

She was the proud owner of Driving School by Mel and was a bus driver for Celina City Schools, bus #17.

# #ccmsfamily



## ***In Memory of Melinda Ann (Cisco) Keiser (cont.)***

Melinda was a longtime member of Bethany United Methodist Church. She had a huge heart, a beautiful soul, a contagious laugh and never met a stranger; she thought everyone was her cousin. Christmas, Myrtle Beach, Winnie the Pooh, and her cats and dogs, Winnie and Ethel were a few of her favorite things. Most of all she loved her family. She was devoted daughter, loving wife, beautiful mother, wonderful grandmother, sister, aunt, niece, cousin, and friend. As our hearts ache for the physical loss of her, we find serenity knowing that she is now with God. She is at peace, and for that, we are grateful.

She is survived by her parents; Bob and Karen Cisco, Celina; her husband, Joe Keiser, Celina; her children, Katie (Brad) Link, St. Henry, Dylan (Mackenzi) Cummins, Celina, Rachael (fiancé, Tyler Salyer) Keiser, Celina and Carson Keiser, Celina; step-children, Nathan Keiser, Tennessee, Heather (Eric) Sutter, Celina and Kyle (Amy) Keiser, Tennessee; her grandchildren, Harrison Link, Caroline Cummins and one on the way; step-grandchildren, Noah, Emma and Ava Sutter, Morgan and Natalie Keiser, Gracie Price, Celeste, Calleigh and Leo Keiser; her mother-in-law, Norma Keiser; her siblings, Becki (Chris) Weitzel, Celina, Tammy (David) Vernon, Urbana and Rob (Nikki) Cisco, Celina; as well as numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Celina High School Athletic Department.

## **Paul J. "PJ" Lamiell**

Paul J. "PJ" Lamiell, Jr. age 61, of Canton, passed away Friday, November 11, 2022, surrounded by his beloved family. He was born May 31, 1961 in Canton, a son of the late Paul J. Lamiell and Sally (Ziegler) Kitson of Canton, and was a life resident.



PJ was a 1979 graduate of McKinley High School and a 1983 graduate of Xavier University and also the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He is a licensed Ohio Funeral Director and Embalmer and joined his father in the family funeral home in 1983. He is a member of the Basilica of St. John the Baptist, Basilica of St. John the Baptist Parish Council (President), the Rotary Club of Canton, Canton Council No. 341 Knights of Columbus, Msgr. Graham Assembly Fourth Degree K. of C., Catholic Men's Luncheon Club, and the JCI Senators. He formerly served on the Board of Trustees of the YMCA of Central Stark County and as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Meyers Lake YMCA.

PJ has been active in the Canton Jaycees in which he was a Jaycee of the Year, Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival in which he was a Past Chairman of the Ribs Burnoff and Fireworks Committees, Buckeye Council Boy Scouts of America, CYC Community Recreation Center in which he was a past President, and several other volunteer boards. He is a recipient of the 2010 Meyers Lake YMCA Adult Volunteer of the Year Award and the 1998 recipient of the Canton Jaycees Distinguished Service Award.

PJ is survived by his wife, Sharon (Kirkpatrick) Lamiell, with whom he celebrated their 35th Wedding Anniversary on May 16th, four children, Paul and Kaitlyn Lamiell III and their son, Asher, and one soon to be born, Kelly Lamiell, Kristine Lamiell, and Andrew Lamiell, his mother and step-father, Sally and Bob Kitson, and his brother, Stephen and Tammy Lamiell.

## **Bruce C. Redmon**

On November 1, 2022, Bruce C. Redmon, surrounded by his family, finished the race set before him. (2 Timothy 4:7)

Born in Urbana, Illinois, on October 10, 1940, he was raised in Syracuse, New York and moved to Silver Lake in 1955. A graduate in the "Class of '57" from Cuyahoga Falls High School, he served on its reunion committee through the 60th reunion in 2017. Bruce was also a 1961 graduate of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. On November 4, 1961, Bruce married Lou-Ann, his wife of 61 years. Fulfilling a desire to serve grieving families in "his way", Bruce and Lou-Ann established Redmon Funeral Home in February of 1968.





### **In Memory of Bruce Redmon (cont.)**

Over the many years, he was a member of Stow Men's Garden Club, Stow Masonic Lodge, Summit County Funeral Directors Association (past president), Ohio Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, and Stow Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce (past president). Bruce was also active as a sponsor/coach in Stow Boys' Baseball, as a member of Stow Munroe Falls Rotary Club (Paul Harris Fellow), and was a founding member of the Stow Schools Foundation.

Because of his love for Stow, in the 1970s Bruce was the originator and chairman of Pride Week in Stow held during the week of July 4th, sponsored by the Stow Munroe Falls Chamber of Commerce. He also established the Presidents Club Scholarship Fund through the Chamber of Commerce to support scholarships for high school graduating seniors of Chamber members.

His community involvement resulted in many recognitions, including the Distinguished Service Award by the Stow Jaycees, the very first Small Businessman's Award by the Stow Sentry, and along with his wife, Lou-Ann, was elected a grand marshal for the 4th of July Parade. A longtime active member of The Chapel in Akron, Bruce had more recently been attending Christ Community Chapel in Hudson.

The Redmon family would like to express their deepest thanks to Serenity Hospice for their short-term care of Bruce and each of us.

Preceded in death by his parents, Carl F. and Ihleen L. Redmon, and sister, Dianne Kinslow, he is survived by his wife, Lou-Ann; sons and daughters-in-law, Kevin and Pam of Lawrenceville, Georgia; Keith and Catherine of Stow; grandchildren, Alyssa (Todd) Slagle of Atlanta, Georgia, Jacob of Stow, Craig (Katie) of Hoschton, Georgia, and Sydney (Ryan) Roush of Fairborn, Ohio; great-grandchildren, Allison and Harper Redmon, Connor Slagle, and Jackson Roush.

### **Ronald E. Troyer**

Ronald (Ron) E. age 76 of Hudson, WI died peacefully on November 21, 2022 at United Hospital in St. Paul, MN. He was born on July 20, 1946 in Elkhart, IN the son of Kenneth and Gladys Irene (Monroe) Troyer. Ron grew up in Elkhart graduating from Elkhart High School in 1964. He attended the University of Minnesota graduating with Bachelor of Science Degree in 1968 and then a Master's in Education from Xavier University in Cincinnati, OH in 1979. He would meet another U of MN student in the late 1960s and it wouldn't take long for both to know they were meant for each other. Ron and his wife Jean were married on June 9, 1968 in the Hamline United Methodist Church, St. Paul and celebrated fifty-three years of marriage together. Ron and Jean loved spending time together at the Hudson Library and the Phipps Center for the Arts in Hudson.



Ron was a funeral director for over thirty-five years in Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. He was also a faculty member in the 1970s and 1980s at the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and the Program of Mortuary Science at the University of Minnesota. After moving to Hudson in 1984 Ron became very active in the local community, serving as President of the Board of Directors of the Christian Community Home and Wintergreen for many years during the late 1980s and 1990s. He proudly served as an elected member of the Hudson City Council and the St. Croix County Board of Supervisors during the mid-1990s through the mid-2000s.

Ron is survived by his son, John Troyer of Bristol, England; his daughter, Tracey (Ron) Krueger of Portland, OR; son-in-law, Deneb Bucella of Milan, Italy; grandchildren, Aaron and Penny Bucella and Aisling and Ben Krueger; sister-in-law, Beth Troyer of Eagan; sister-in-law Nancy Troyer of California; cousins, Todd, Mary and Susie of Minnesota; nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Jean Troyer; parents, Kenneth and Irene; daughter, Julie Troyer Bucella; brothers, Keith and Donald Troyer.

Ron was a proud University of Minnesota Alum and lifetime member of the Alumni Association. He was always wearing his Golden Gophers baseball cap and would want everyone to know he was cremated wearing it.



## **In Memory of Ronald Troyer (cont.)**

He worked for many years in different parts of the funeral business, as both a funeral director and death educator. He also published many articles over the years in both books and trade journals on how funeral directors can best serve grieving families. In these articles he drew on his many years working with Compassionate Friends, Parents of Murdered Children, and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) support groups. Ron loved being a funeral director and supporting families during extremely difficult times.

Ron was an extremely active member at the Hudson YMCA. He enjoyed swimming in the pool (and sitting in the hot tub!) and the friendships it developed. Regularly talking with his "Y Friends" was an important part of his daily life. He deeply appreciated the friendship the YMCA Staff showed him after Jean died and how they regularly checked-in on him right up until his death.

His desire was for Memorials given to honor his life be given to the Hudson Library, like they were for Jean. This way they will both be together for many years to come amongst all the books.

## **Charles Welch**

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4: 7 Charles Russell Welch, 70, was surrounded in love as he finished his race on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at his home in Crestline.

It is difficult to sum up one's life in a few short sentences. Charlie's life was so much more than a paragraph and a few funny stories. We want you to know him and let you understand what a great guy he was and is forever in our hearts. Our lives were better for having him in them, even if for just a short while.

The son of Frank M. and Ruth Ann (Tinkey) Welch, Charlie was born on April 12, 1952, in Mansfield and remained a lifelong area resident. A graduate of Ontario High School class of 1971, Charlie attended Bluffton University.

Charlie and Denise A. Gwinner were united in marriage on August 31, 1980. The memories that Charlie and Denise created throughout their marriage journey are now cherished treasures of the heart.

Charlie's work history was long and varied. He drove truck for Roger Au Company, was a tool and die maker and Project Manager for Therm-O-Disc and Jay Industries, and raised, bred, trained, and showed Appaloosa and Quarter Horses. As a young man he worked on the family farm- some of his fondest memories happened on that farm. He loved the smell of fresh turned earth, freshly mowed hay, and the vibrant green of the wheat in the spring.

Charlie could tell a joke like no other! He would begin a story and have you wanting to believe it until he told you the punch line at the end. The smile on his face as he watched you realize you had just been taken was priceless followed by his uproarious laughter. Everyone loved hearing Charlie's stories as much as he enjoyed sharing them.

A weekend at a horseshow was a weekend of hard work typically ending with a late-night campfire and a touch of humor. Charlie's horses always did well in the ring and he encouraged his competitors with good natured teasing.

His circle of friends was large and varied- friends from his days at Ontario, college classmates, work, the horse business, and others he met on his journey through life. Charlie would greet you with a quick smile and genuine handshake always asking how life was treating you.

Charlie lived life as it came and enjoyed those people who shared it with him. His time with family and friends was priceless. Charlie supported and encouraged his family; he was their rock and gave so much of himself to them. He believed in letting people know he appreciated them. Keeping in touch with old friends, and making new, was his way of life.

Charlie accomplished much in his lifetime; but he would be the first to tell you that everything pales in comparison to his family. His family was his pride and joy and, especially during his last few months, they gave him great comfort and peace.

Continued >>



## **In Memory of Charles Welch (cont.)**

Charlie is survived by his beloved wife of 42 years, Denise A. (Gwinner) Welch; children: Shane (Tara) Welch, Jodi (Mandi Whitlatch) Welch, Cory (Rachel) Welch; grandchildren: Raegan, Ashtyn, Oliver, C.J., Hayleigh and Blaine; siblings: Ted (Brian Walters) Welch; Kathleen (Mike) Shaffer, David (Melody) Welch, Karen (Daryl) Slusher, and Carl Welch; many nieces and nephews; brothers-in-law: Terry Gwinner, Father David E. Gwinner, and Dwight Hawk; as well as other relatives and friends. Charlie was preceded in death by his parents: Frank and Ruth Welch; nephew: Gary Slusher; mother-in-law: Phyllis Gwinner; father- in-law: William Gwinner, sister-in-law: Cheryl Hawk; and maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family would like to express with grateful hearts a thank you to Hospice of North Central Ohio for the care shown to Charlie and his family. His journey home ended with grace, dignity, and peace.

## **Holly Cornell Bassett**

Holly Cornell Bassett, passed away peacefully surrounded by the people she loved the most on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at the age of 79. She was born on December 29, 1942, to the late Alden and Marian Bassett. She is survived by her loving children, Shelby (Poul) Lemasters and Michael (Gladysbell) Kieser, as well as her adored grandchildren, Bella, Ryan, Max and Chloe. Being Mimi and grandma to her grandchildren was the greatest joy of her life and she would be with them whenever she got the chance.

Holly was the bravest woman her family has ever known. With every challenge life threw at her, she faced them head on; fiercely strong and graceful. She was very proud to have worked her way up the corporate ladder and became the executive assistant to the vice president of legal at Mercy Health Partners for many years. Holly loved life and the finer things in it, and she learned about life through her fascination and curiosity, which lead her to be a world traveler taking her to countless places all over the world. Her eagerness to learn about different places and people brought her so much happiness! It was this happiness that she shared with everyone. She will be greatly missed because she was deeply loved.

Holly was the mother-in-law of CCMS Board Member Poul Lemasters.



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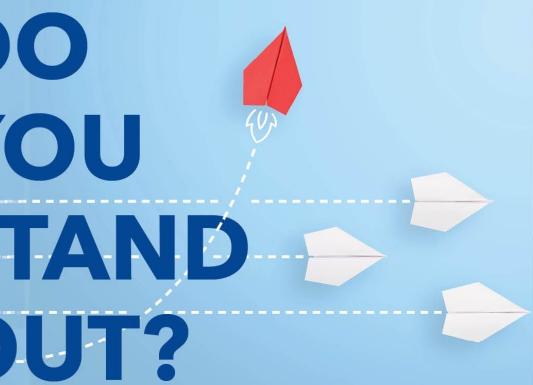
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