

Metallica Scholars Initiative continues for sixth year at ECTC

ECTC first and only Kentucky college to join the program as it expands to all 50 states

For the sixth year, Elizabethtown Community and Technical College has earned a place in the prestigious Metallica Scholars Initiative. Joining in 2020, the initiative’s second year, ECTC is the only Kentucky college included.

All Within My Hands (AWMH), the non-profit, philanthropic organization created by the members and management of Metallica, recently announced its Year 7 of its Metallica Scholars Initiative (MSI) with its largest grant to date, totaling approximately \$3 million. MSI now has a presence in 75 colleges across all 50 United States and the territory of Guam and is expected to reach approximately 10,000 students.

Funds from the grant will be used to support ECTC students in advanced manufacturing

programs, including \$4,000 in scholarships.

“Our students take pride in being named Metallica Scholars. It shows them that their hard work is noticed and appreciated,” said Technical Division Chair and Professor Tim Cordova. “That, along with the scholarship funds, affirms their decision to pursue a career in advanced manufacturing. We’re grateful for this partnership and are honored to be a Metallica Scholars college.”

ECTC’s advanced manufacturing programs include the new automation, industrial and robotics technology program, electrical technology, welding technology, computerized manufacturing and machining, air conditioning technology and computer aided drafting and design.

“The Metallica Scholars Initiative continues to be a welcome addition to the ECTC community,” said ECTC President Dr. Justin Pate. “It helps us better prepare students for highly skilled advanced manufacturing careers right here in our region, which in turn benefits our local employers.”

“I could not be any prouder of our Metallica Scholars. We know that our country needs millions of skilled tradespeople, and it warms my heart to know

that our Foundation’s efforts are making a positive impact and putting hard-working people on the path to careers in the trades,” said Robert Trujillo, Metallica band member. “Whether it’s a school visit or a meet and greet before a show, there is no better feeling than meeting our Metallica Scholars in person and hearing their stories of grit and determination firsthand, along with their pride and commitment. It is truly inspiring. To think we started with a few schools and a couple hundred students, and we’re now in 75 schools nationwide, about to reach 10,000 students. It’s just incredible.”

Launched in 2019 by All Within My Hands in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), MSI began with 10 colleges focused primarily on Manufacturing programs. The workforce initiative has since expanded to offer opportunities in diverse fields for students interested in gaining the skills and training necessary to establish meaningful careers that provide family-sustaining wages.

To evaluate the program's efficacy, the University of Southern California (USC) Sol Price School of Public Policy independently

researched and quantified MSI's impact on the skilled trades and the return on investment (ROI) earlier this year. The research extended into all Year 6 community colleges, covering more than 350 fields of study at these institutions, measuring the cost of completion and anticipated salaries post-graduation. The key observation is that the ROI — the ratio of a program’s cost to anticipated median wage — across all MSI-supported programs is a very high and cost-efficient 8.3X. This means that on average, MSI graduates can expect to earn 8.3X the upfront cost of their program during their first year in the workforce.

“2025 is a watershed moment for the Metallica Scholars Initiative,” said Peter Delgrosso, Executive Director, All Within My Hands. “With the addition of 15 new schools this fall and USC’s independent research articulating the strength of our results, we are eager to tackle the quantifiable shortage of skilled labor our nation faces. If we extrapolate these ROI numbers over a career, it demonstrates how effective and profitable learning a trade can be for the individual, and how society as a whole also benefits from community college graduates.

This insight will profoundly affect MSI going forward, impacting how people view careers in the trades, encouraging more corporate and individual sponsorship, and driving its advancement across the country. We're thrilled to incorporate these findings into this year's planning and expansion.”

Year 7 also marks the renewal of AWMH’s partnership with the Lowe’s Foundation, which has provided \$1•million•in support as part of its five-year, \$50 million commitment to prepare 50,000 people for skilled trades careers.

It takes a village to achieve these results, including the continued support from many long-time corporate partners of AWMH, notably workwear manufacturers Carhartt, Wolverine, and CNH, a global leader in agricultural and construction equipment. The aforementioned along with the extended Metallica Family of fans have staunchly supported AWMH from day one and worked tirelessly to advance its mission.

For a complete list of all 75 colleges currently supported by AWMH, visit allwithinmyhands.org/metallica-scholars.

TAX

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community that we don't charge anything (for)."

Roof said Leitchfield has taken the compensating tax rate every year since 2021.

"And we are making a push to improve our streets, our sidewalks, things like that," Mayor Miller said. "Unfortunately, those things do cost a little bit, and our intention is to improve the quality of life for the people that live in the city of Leitchfield and work in the city of Leitchfield."

City Councilman Raymond "Tooty" Cottrell also noted that if cities fall behind raising tax rates, "and you freeze them, the problem is, a couple of years down the road, you'll be raising them a lot more than 4%,

and that's going to really hit somebody hard."

Roof said if cities do not fall behind, it allows them to avoid having to raise tax rates significantly all at once.

After the vote, the first reading of Leitchfield's property tax ordinance with the compensating tax rates was held. The second reading of the ordinance will be held in September.

In other business, the city council:

- *Accepted the \$63,250 low bid from Bratcher Services to upgrade to the Leitchfield Transfer Station. The other bid came from T & T Construction (\$66,713.59).
- *Entered into executive session to conduct interviews for the vacancy on the Leitchfield Planning & Zoning Commission. Upon returning to regular session, City Attorney Earlene

Wilson said the city council will make a decision regarding this matter at its next meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

- *Approved a resolution authorizing Mayor Miller to execute and submit an application to KIA for the wastewater treatment plant project loan and any supporting documents necessary.
- *Passed a motion to rescind a previous vote that would have sent zone change request RZ-25-137 (from C-1 Highway Commercial to R-2 Single Family Medium Density) back to the Planning & Zoning Commission, which had recommended rejecting the request. After doing so, Haycraft then voted to deny the Planning & Zoning Commission’s recommendation not to approve the zone change request,

and City Councilman George Hack seconded her motion. The motion passed on a five-to-one vote, with Bocock voting against it.

- *Voted to approve a resolution continuing the city's demolition program.
- *Granted approval for Roof to sign any and all documents related to a donation in the form of an IRA to the Leitchfield Animal Shelter.
- *Granted approval for Roof to open a new checking account for the opioid settlement funds the city receives. Leitchfield has around \$86,000 in opioid settlement funding currently, Roof said.
- *Approved a contract with Kentucky Utilities to have two new street lights installed near the new roundabout on William Thomason Byway.

HUNGER

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Second and third place winners will receive 2026 season family passes to LAC.

All proceeds raised from the sponsorship of the ducks will benefit the Grayson County Alliance Food Pantry, and each duck represents 40 meals for the community.

The Ducking Hunger Regatta will once again take place at 6 p.m. on Labor Day (Monday, Sept. 1).

"Let's make a splash and beat hunger together," officials said.

To sponsor a duck, call 270-259-4000 or visit https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/grayson-county-alliance/2025-ducking-hunger-regatta?fbclid=IwY2xjawMUA-JJleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkE-TExMG56OXh6N1M4eFFqb3F2AR7t4dSV7SANZ7b0bJIuast9fsYvnbm1LF8tc6XVcc6cIUexGu-PAwm3yawAciQ_aem_lkSOe9tpRvLuXZJ0HZ6GSA.

FAIR

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be followed by the Little Miss & Mister Grayson County Fair pageant at 3 p.m. At 6 p.m., the KTPA Truck and Tractor Pull starts, followed by the Grayson County Only Truck Pull at 9 p.m.

The week concludes on the morning of Monday, Sept. 1 with the annual Labor Day Parade. Parade registration begins at 8 a.m., and the parade itself starts at 9:30 a.m.

The cost of admission to the fair will be \$10 per person on Tuesday and \$15 per person Wednesday through Saturday. For more information about this year's fair, visit graysoncountyfair.net or call 270-259-6600.

YEAR

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its meeting schedule for 2025-2026. The board will now meet on the third Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. The meeting dates and locations will be as follows: Sept. 18 at Grayson County Middle School; Oct. 16 at Lawler Elementary; Nov. 20 at Caneyville Elementary; Dec. 18 at the Board Central Office; Jan. 15 at Wilkey Elementary; Feb. 19 at Grayson County High School; March 19 at Clarkson Elementary; April 16 at the Central Office; May 21 at the Central Office; June 18 at the Central Office; July 16 at the Central Office; and Aug. 20 at the Central Office.

*Tabled a discussion regarding the district's proposed 2025-2026 property tax rates, which are 57.4 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on real estate; 58.8 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on personal property; 46.3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on motor vehicles; and 3 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation on utilities. Because the rates must be approved before Sept. 16, a special called meeting of the school board will have to be held; though that date had not been announced at press time.

*Approved two payments to Parco Constructors Group in the amounts of \$7,266.07 and \$92,734.30 for the Caneyville Elementary School HVAC renovation project.

*Adopted the Code of Acceptable Behavior & Discipline.

*Entered into lease agreements with Marco for a Konica Minolta C301i black and white printer to be placed at GCHS for the Alternative Education Department (the lease term is for 48 months



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Joey Clark, of ClotfelterSamokar, provides a construction update on the Grayson County Technology Center renovation and expansion project.

and will begin once it is delivered at a rate of \$121.34 per month for 3,000 copies per month) and two Konica 651i black and white copiers to be placed at GCMS (the lease term is for 35 months to coincide with their original lease and will begin upon delivery for a rate of \$506.78 per month for 5,000 copies per month).

*Approved the Orientation & Mobility Specialist contract for Billie Martin with Grayson County Schools. This individual works with visually impaired students.

*Approved Southern KY Speech Therapy, LLC with partner The Stepping Stones Group to provide speech therapy at Caneyville

Elementary.

- *Awarded the sale of the

2002 International School Bus to Sarah Crume for \$750.

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