

OHIO SENATE

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STATE OF OHIO  
**Executive Department**

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

*Columbus*

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Jessica J. Cunningham, from Lima, Allen County, Ohio, as a Member of the James A. Rhodes State College Board of Trustees for a term beginning September 1, 2023 and ending at the close of business August 31, 2025, replacing Mona L. Willamowski, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 1st day of September in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike DeWine". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Mike DeWine  
Governor

# JESSICA CUNNINGHAM

1418 W. Market Street, Lima, OH 45805 · 419.979.3390  
jjocunningham@hotmail.com · LinkedIn Profile, Jessica Cunningham

Highly effective leader with 10+ years in the nursing profession. Proven track record of motivating people and improving quality of care. Excellent communicator with effective conflict resolution skills.

## EXPERIENCE

**FEBRUARY 2021 – PRESENT LIMA MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

**DIRECTOR, PATIENT ACCESS CENTER, STROKE SERVICE LINE, SUPPORT SERVICES**

Direct oversight of quality, service and performance measures for the Joint Commission accredited Stroke Service Line. Direct oversight to Organizational Bed Management program. Successfully implemented and provide continual program oversight to include quality metrics for AvaSure Continuous Patient Monitoring program. Direct oversight to Support Services nursing and patient care tech pools as well as Clinical Resource Nurses.

**SEPTEMBER 2017 – APRIL 2021 LIMA MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

**CLINICAL MANAGER, CARDIAC CATH LAB / CTC / CARDIAC & PULMONARY REHAB**

Direct oversight to clinical staff and daily operations. Direct collaboration with physicians as well as oversight of seven cardiology medical directorships to include contract negotiation and monthly and yearly quality bonus payouts. Lead quality improvement initiatives bringing the radial access site percentage from 11% in 2017 to 79% in 2021. Successful development and implementation of Structural Heart and TAVR program.

**JUNE 2014 – SEPTEMBER 2017 LIMA MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM**

**CLINICAL MANAGER, CARDIAC STEP-DOWN UNIT**

Direct oversight to inpatient clinical staff, building strong educational foundations to care for patients on the unit. Developed and initiated cardiovascular pathways for patients with AMI and CABG with integration into EMR. Policy and protocol development. Emphasis on patient, associate and physician satisfaction as evidence by HCAHPS scores and associate satisfaction survey results.

## EDUCATION

**JULY 2021**

**MASTERS OF NURSING – ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP, WESTERN GOVERNORS UNIVERSITY**

**OCTOBER 2011**

**BACHELOR OF SCIENCE – NURSING, CHAMBERLAIN UNIVERSITY**

## GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

**Appointment Date:** 9/1/2023

**Name of Appointee:** Jessica J. Cunningham

Address: 1418 W. Market St  
Lima, OH 45805  
Allen County  
(H) –  
(W) – 4192265182  
(M) – 4199793390  
(E) – jcunningha@limamemorial.org

**Name of Commission:** James A. Rhodes State College Board of Trustees  
Sandy Kortokrax, Office Operations Specialist  
Office of the President  
Rhodes State College  
4240 Campus Drive  
Lima, OH 45804  
419-995-8200  
kortokrax.s@rhodesstate.edu

**Term Begins:** 9/1/2023

**Term Ends:** 8/31/2025

**Party Affiliation:** Republican

**Senate Confirmation:** Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate

**Financial Disclosure:** Confidential disclosure required

**Vice:** Mona L. Willamowski

# Ohio Senate Advice and Consent

## Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Name: Jessica Cunningham

Institution Being Appointed to:

Rhodes State Community College

1. Are you a graduate of or do any of your dependents attend the institution to which you are being appointed as trustee?

Yes

2. What is your position on the First Amendment rights of faculty, staff, and students, and how will you balance this with promoting diversity of thought on campus?

My position on the First Amendment rights of faculty, staff, and students is encouraging the right to free speech while acknowledging the appropriate platform to express those thoughts. I understand community colleges are open door institutions and that open access is important to our students and communities. Being exposed to different ideas and solutions will expand student thinking and enable problem solving from different perspectives without narrowing the focus on one or more opinions.

3. In your opinion, what are three current significant issues affecting higher education?

- Cost/Student Debt - Tuition increases that outpace inflation and increase student debt;
- Workforce Gaps - Not meeting industry employment needs;
- Aging Technology, Equipment, Facilities – Upgrades that help community colleges continue to offer hands-on training for the jobs that are coming (digital age AI, Manufacturing, Healthcare)

4. Do you feel comfortable presenting new or alternative solutions to issues presented to the Board of Trustees ("Board") by the president or other trustees of the institution to which you are being appointed?

My experience in Leadership within Lima Memorial Health System has allowed me opportunities to lead various strategic initiatives and challenge or offer differing ideas/solutions to those initially proposed. Additionally, I ensure I am fully knowledgeable in all aspects of the topic being proposed and engage in conversations to fully understand the matter.

5. What are some ideas you plan to propose to reduce the overall cost of higher education?

- College Credit Plus (complete college courses in high school, at no cost, and finish a degree at a college/university)
- Transfer Pathways (start at a community college and transfer to a university)

- Pathways with business and industry (e.g., paid work and learn, apprenticeships, internships)

6. What thoughts do you have on faculty tenure, post-tenure review, and annual faculty performance reviews?

While faculty tenure can show longevity and loyalty to an organization or college, I believe annual faculty performance reviews are important to ensure essential job duties and responsibilities are being met. Additionally, it is my understanding Rhodes State College conducts annual faculty reviews and believe these reviews are important to maintain accreditation and quality within all programs.

7. What are your thoughts on ways to increase graduation rates at the institution to which you have been appointed?

There are three areas in which I believe we can move students along their journey to graduating.

- Early Employer Connections - In today's changing educational delivery, it is important to connect students to employers as soon as possible. Engagement with employers can motivate students to complete a degree, because it is aligned with a potential job (example: internships)
- Assessment and Data Analysis - As someone who works in a hospital setting, it is always important to incorporate assessment and data analysis to identify at-risk students, courses in which students do not do well, and institute improvement actions needed to progress toward graduation.
- Advocacy/Removing Barriers - Removing social/economic barriers (example: single parents raising families, while working full-time, finding financial support to assist them)

8. Is higher education in Ohio addressing the current and future workforce needs of our state, and how can the institution you have been appointed to better address these workforce challenges?

During early conversations with the Rhodes State College President, it appears Rhodes seems to be aligning itself with the long-term employment needs of business and industry. They are renovating facilities for Behavioral Services, Advanced Manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, Agriculture Technology, and continue to advance their Health Sciences educational programs. They have worked closely with 10 county hospital administrators to redesign their curriculum for what was needed in their facilities and pushed to enable legislative changes enabling Rhodes to offer the BSN.

9. In your view, who are you ultimately responsible to serve as a trustee of the institution you have been appointed to: the president, Board chairperson, or taxpayers of Ohio?

As a member of Rhodes State College Board of Trustees, I am ultimately responsible for serving the taxpayers of Ohio, all while working in partnership with the president, chairperson, and other trustees.

**Please complete and return this form either by email at [sd18@ohiosenate.gov](mailto:sd18@ohiosenate.gov) or mail the completed form to:**

**Senator Jerry C. Cirino  
1 Capitol Square  
Columbus, OH 43215**