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## Welcome from the Director

Hi all,

I hope you are having a wonderful fall! I am pleased to introduce the first quarterly newsletter of the Defiance Research Alliance. This collaboration between Defiance College, the City of Defiance, and Defiance County Schools focuses on addressing systematic water quality issues in the Upper Maumee Watershed through education, research, and training. The partnership was funded in September 2022 and we have hit the ground running. Within this newsletter, we are excited to share our progress thus far and look forward to providing regular updates over the coming years.

Happy Fall!

Sabrina Brown

*Project Director*



## Informational Webinar: December 14

by *Jennifer English*

Please join us for an informational webinar to learn more about the Defiance Research Alliance. We will introduce you to key members of the team, including our Core Working Group and Executive Committee. We will expand on the topics included here in our first quarterly update, give you a chance to ask questions, and most importantly, let you know how to get involved! This free webinar will be held at 10 am on December 14<sup>th</sup> and will be recorded for those who cannot attend. Please direct webinar inquiries to [jenglish@cityofdefiance.com](mailto:jenglish@cityofdefiance.com). Advance registration is required:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpfu-qqj4qE9xRyYHb-1q5SO6VAzeUofP5>

We look forward to seeing you there!

## Project Objectives and Goals

by *Katelyn Smith*

Defiance College, the City of Defiance, and Defiance County schools are forming a partnership to reach the common goal to learn more about one of the many natural resources we use everyday: water. This partnership will focus on achieving the overarching goals of examining excess nutrients in the Upper Maumee Watershed, enhancing education for secondary and college students, and conducting research focused on real-world solutions. This research will occur at Defiance College's newly-established Maumee River Watershed Research Center. This partnership will pursue research and outreach objectives focused on developing solutions to benefit the Defiance County community. For more information, see our most recent press release: [Defiance College Partnership Receives Funding for Water Quality Research](#)



# DEFIANCE

## RESEARCH ALLIANCE

### Logo Concept

by *Katelyn Smith*

This new collaboration is proud to present the Defiance Research Alliance logo. The triangle represents the alliance between the 3 main members: Defiance College, the City of Defiance and the Defiance County Schools. These three entities come together to form one group, the triangle, with a focus on research of water quality on the Maumee River, the blue river in the triangle.

## Introducing Key Members



(On Left/Top) Dr. Sabrina Brown (Defiance College) is the Defiance Research Alliance Project Director. She coordinates research efforts at the newly-established Maumee River Watershed Data Research Center and manages student opportunities in water quality education.

(On Right) Katelyn Smith (Defiance College) is the Freshwater Research Technician for the Defiance Research Alliance. She is responsible for developing research protocols and conducting research in the field and laboratory.

Jennifer English (City of Defiance) is the Defiance Research Alliance Project Coordinator. She is developing the Maumee River Watershed Council, a working group that will communicate project information to the general public.

## Student Opportunities

by *Katelyn Smith*

As a part of the Defiance Research Alliance, secondary and college level classes are being offered at Defiance College by Sabrina Brown in the upcoming 2023 Spring semester. Inquiry in Science (NSCI 220) and Fundamentals of Water Quality (BIO 495) are open to students in any major and will provide more information on the basics of water quality research (see fliers for [NSCI 220](#) and [BIO 495](#)). Inquiry in Science will be available to both Defiance College students and high school CCP (College Credit Plus) students. It will focus on how scientific research works by performing hands-on research in the Upper Maumee Watershed. The second class, Fundamentals of Water Quality is an upper-division science course for Defiance College students and will include hands-on water quality research, as well as opportunities for students to make connections with scientists and professionals.

**Registration for both of these courses is now available!!**

## City of Defiance Spotlight

by *Joe Ewers, City of Defiance*

The Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for the City of Defiance has had some important and exciting projects startup in 2022. The WTP began operation of its Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) system in the spring of 2022. A project that was nearly ten years in the making, from initial proposal to project completion, brought the water system back into compliance for TTHMs (total-trihalomethanes) for the first time since 2017. GAC is made of high quality material, such as coal and wood, that has a high adsorptive capacity. The adsorption process is what makes GAC ideal in the removal of contaminants from drinking water. Also in 2022, the WTP began operating an inline nutrient monitoring system on the Maumee River. In 2021, the City

was awarded a grant by the Great Lakes Observing System (GLOS) to install monitoring on the Maumee River to give WTP staff and others real time water quality data to help determine optimal times to pump water from the river to the reservoir. The system went online in early 2022 and has assisted WTP staff in its operations of filling the reservoir.



### Defiance Research Alliance

For more information or Questions Contact:  
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