



Gina DeGenova

Mahoning County Prosecuting Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**MAHONING COUNTY PROSECUTOR GINA DEGENOVA PARTNERS WITH YSU'S
SOKOLOV HONORS COLLEGE TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INITIATIVES**

PRESS CONFERENCE TO BE HELD:

Date: December 5, 2023

Time: 2:15 p.m.

Place: YSU Tod Hall, Board of Trustees meeting room, 1 Tressel Way, Youngstown, Ohio 44555

Please R.S.V.P by Monday Dec. 4. Email: prosecutor@mahoningcountyooh.gov

Prosecutor DeGenova and the Sokolov Honors College will hold a press conference at YSU, December 5 at 2:15 p.m. to highlight the results of a partnership between the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office and YSU's Community Engagement Initiative.

For the 2023 Fall Semester, Prosecutor DeGenova along with other members of her staff, collaborated with the Sokolov Honors College at YSU to give students some insight into the work of the Mahoning County Prosecutor's Office and its role in the community.

Prosecutor DeGenova worked with Mollie Hartup, director of Sokolov Honors College at YSU, to develop the course material as an experiential learning opportunity for students in Hartup's Magazine Editing and Production honors seminar.

Throughout the semester, students in the course met with key individuals in the Prosecutor's Office, attended site visits and worked with office staff to develop stories outlining functions of the office. Selected stories included:

- Understanding the training process for the Prosecutor's Office comfort therapy dog Hope;
- The role of the Prosecutor's office in the response to the East Palestine Train Derailment; and
- The positive collaborative work with the Mahoning County Drug Court



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The students' stories will be published on the Prosecutor's Office website and in the quarterly Justice Journal. The students also worked to organize the upcoming the press conference.

Prosecutor DeGenova said, "Research has shown that engaging youth in community initiatives can help build skills and networks that can assist them in the future. I enjoyed working with Professor Hartup and her students this semester and I hope they found the experience as rewarding. I look forward to continued partnerships in the future."

The Office of Community Engagement at YSU has worked diligently to increase student engagement in the Mahoning Valley through community partnerships. The goal of these partnerships is to establish mutually beneficial relationships with local organizations and businesses to create more experiential learning opportunities for YSU students. This will culminate in YSU's application to the Carnegie Foundation Elective Classification for Community Engagement.

"We appreciate being able to partner to provide these opportunities to extend the learning of these students in support of community organizations' missions," said Amy Cossentino, dean of the Sokolov Honors College and associate provost for Strategy and Engagement. "We welcome future opportunities for collaboration."

Local non-profits, businesses, and government entities interested in developing partnerships to support YSU's community engagement efforts are encouraged to contact communityengagement@ysu.edu.