

9-9-2021

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 9, 2021

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EMS Internship Prepares Student for Life

CEDARVILLE, OHIO -- Like most people, Cedarville University student Ryan Wade does not gravitate toward stress. Yet he enjoyed his particularly stressful summer job as an emergency medical technician for Kettering Health Network.

“To come alive and to be stronger and more resilient under stress is a good skill to have,” Wade recently said. “It’s something you develop and that you’re trained to develop.”

Wade, a junior molecular and cellular biology major from Ontario, New York, moved back to Cedarville in June to spend the second half of his summer working at nearby Kettering Transportation Services. Meanwhile, he completed department training at Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department and Cedarville University Emergency Medical Services ([CU-EMS](#)).

It's a new role Wade embraces because it allows him to help and serve others.

At Kettering Transportation Services, Wade worked several 12-hour shifts each week. During an average shift, Wade and the emergency team would go on eight or nine calls.

For Wade, devoting a significant part of his summer break from college was well worth the sacrifice. He found fulfillment in meeting the needs of others who found themselves in critical situations.

“Being an emergency medical technician gave me a good basis in learning how hospitals work in a crisis situation,” Wade said. “I also enjoyed learning the basics of EMS, including how to effectively communicate when time could be the difference between life and death.”

One of Wade’s key roles was to communicate with area dispatches on his service radio, sharing information with doctors and nurses and interacting with family members.

“Interacting with the appreciative patients and family members made my day,” said Wade. “They were grateful for the work that our team performed, and this basic relationship made the work opportunity worth it for me.”

It’s a serious business, cautioned Wade, who regularly cared for psych patients, including some who were pink-slipped, giving the medical professionals the power to involuntarily commit the mentally unstable person to a hospital or mental institution because of the high risk that they might harm themselves or others.

Wade credits Cedarville University’s rigorous [EMT](#) course for preparing him well for his summer duties. It’s not easy to become EMT certified: Technicians must take an EMT course, pass the National Registry EMT exam and fulfill required clinical hours.

As the students returned to campus in August, Wade began working for the university's EMS. Despite the high-stakes unpredictability it adds to academic life – as soon as their pagers go off, the team drops everything and sprints to the station – Wade considers it a privilege to volunteer. He plans to continue serving through the fall semester and beyond.

He volunteers aboard CU-EMS's own ambulance, MEDIC-15. CU-EMS, a volunteer ambulance service run entirely by students, is designed to cover the emergency health needs of Cedarville's campus but also responds to calls from the surrounding community if needed.

"We have a fully equipped ambulance and a fully trained team," Wade said. "It's the same level of service you'd get from the Cedarville Fire Department. We are definitely prepared and trained to handle the same things."

"I love doing this job," Wade said. "You work hard to gain these skills. You go through the course and all the department's extra training, and then you're able to put it into action."

Ultimately, Wade's enjoyment of his job springs from his desire to help others.

"You have to know how someone is feeling even if they don't put it into words, and how to show compassion that reassures them. It's such a great way to serve," added Wade.

"You walk into some of people's darkest moments when you're in EMS, and you have the ability to use your training to make someone's day better and brighter. You really feel like you're making a difference."

Located in southwest Ohio, Cedarville University is an accredited, Christ-centered, Baptist institution with an enrollment of 4,715 undergraduate, graduate, and online students in more than 150 areas of study. Founded in 1887, Cedarville is one of the largest private universities in Ohio, recognized nationally for its authentic Christian community, rigorous academic programs, including its [Bachelor of Science in Molecular Biology](#) program, strong graduation and retention rates, accredited professional and health science offerings, and high student engagement ranking. For more information about the University, visit cedarville.edu.

Written by Brendan Rowland