



# YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

## Fire Science Advisory Board



To ensure the continued excellence, relevance, and growth of our Fire Science program, we have established a dedicated Advisory Board composed of distinguished leaders and professionals from across the fire service and public safety landscape. This board—representing a diverse range of expertise including education, emergency management, state and local fire service leadership, and professional development—will play a vital role in guiding curriculum development, aligning training with industry standards, and strengthening community partnerships. By leveraging the insight and experience of these accomplished individuals, we are committed to continually enhancing our program and preparing our students for meaningful, impactful careers in fire and emergency services.



### **BILL MASTROIANNI**

Director of Operation, Ohio  
Association of Professional Fire  
Fighters



### **CHRISTOPHER WEAVER**

President, Youngstown  
Professional Firefighters – IAFF  
Local 312, Paramedic, Fire &  
EMS Instructor



### **SCOTT KING**

Bureau Chief, Ohio Fire  
Academy – Division of the State  
Fire Marshal



### **RICHARD DUNNE**

Fire Program Specialist (Ret),  
Federal Emergency  
Management Agency



### **KIM VERDONE**

Manager, Degree Audits,  
Youngstown State University



### **CHARLIE DIXON**

Captain (Ret), President –  
Ohio Society of Fire Service  
Instructors; Fire/Industry  
Content Advisor – Ohio  
Natural Energy Institute  
GOSAfer



### **JOSEPH MISTOVICH**

Professor Emeritus,  
Department Chair (Ret),  
Youngstown State University



### **NICHOLAS A. MINTZ**

Assistant Chief of Training,  
Youngstown Air Reserve  
Station Fire Department



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## Bill Mastroianni

Director of Operation, Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters

Bill Mastroianni is a 31-year veteran of the fire service, with the last 27 years serving as a Captain in the City of Euclid Fire Department. He is a proud member of IAFF Local 337, where he has held multiple executive board positions throughout his career.

Since 2016, Bill has served as the Director of Operations for the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters. In this role, he oversees all aspects of education, conferences, seminars, and the organization's Biennial Conference. Prior to this, he was an instructor at the Ohio Fire Academy, primarily working with the cadet program and leading various leadership development courses.

Bill holds certifications as a Fire Instructor, Paramedic, and Fire Officer I & II. He also holds an Associate's Degree in Fire Science and serves as a member of the State of Ohio Fire Fighter I and II/Fire Safety Inspector Sub-Committee. Additionally, he serves on the boards of two non-profit organizations: Aluminum Cans for Burned Children (ACBC) and the Frontline-to-Field Foundation. Bill has two adult children, Peyton and Alex.



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## Christopher M. Weaver

President, Youngstown Professional Firefighters  
– IAFF Local 312, Paramedic, Fire & EMS Instructor

Chris is a 30-year veteran of the Fire and EMS service, having worked at various fire departments and EMS agencies throughout his career. For the past 26 years, he has served as a professional firefighter with the City of Youngstown Fire Department. Over the course of his service, he has held several leadership roles, including seven years as a Lieutenant and the past ten years as a Captain on a Ladder/Truck Company. He holds State of Ohio certifications as a Firefighter II, Paramedic, Fire and Emergency Services Instructor, and Live Fire Instructor.

In addition to his duties with the Youngstown Fire Department, Chris serves as a Fire and EMS Instructor for both adult and high school students through Choffin Career & Technical Center's Public Safety Program. His dedication to training the next generation of public safety professionals reflects his deep commitment to the field.

Chris also proudly serves as President of the Youngstown Professional Fire Fighters, IAFF Local 312, where he is also the Local's Legislative Director. Over the years, he has held numerous union leadership roles, including Trustee, Vice President, Secretary, and Secretary-Treasurer. At the state level, he has contributed to the Ohio Association of Professional Fire Fighters, most notably as a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee.

He resides in the City of Youngstown with his wife, Tammy. They have two grown children, Brittany and Brent, and enjoy spending time with their beloved French Bulldogs, Carmen and Scarlet. Both Tammy and Brent are proud YSU graduates, each holding a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.



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## Scott King, MS

Bureau Chief, Ohio Fire Academy – Division of  
the State Fire Marshal

A native of West Virginia, Mr. King joined the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of State Fire Marshal, in 2022 as Deputy Director and Chief of the Ohio Fire Academy. Prior to this role, he spent 13 years working for various state agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Public Safety/Ohio Emergency Management Agency. During that time, he led Statewide Emergency Operations and Response Teams, Radiation Safety Teams, HazMat Assessment Teams, and All-Hazards Incident Management Teams.

Mr. King brings 35 years of experience in the fire, EMS, emergency management, and public safety sectors. He has served as both a volunteer and full-time firefighter and EMT in West Virginia, Ohio, and Minnesota, most recently holding the position of Fire Chief and Emergency Management Director for Carver Fire and Rescue. He has also been deployed nationally on multiple tactical and special response teams for major incidents and disasters across the United States.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from West Virginia University, as well as a Bachelor of Science in Disaster Emergency Management and Fire Science from Columbia College. He also earned a Master of Science in Homeland Security Management from Columbia Southern University. Mr. King is currently completing dual master's degrees: a Master of Public Administration from Ohio University and a Master of Science in Executive Fire Administration and Organizational Leadership from Columbia Southern University, with expected graduation in December 2025.



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## **Richard Dunne, MBA, NEMMA**

**Fire Program Specialist (Ret), Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Mr. Dunne is a 28-year veteran of the Fire Service. He has retired from a career department where he served for 25 years. He served in the positions of Firefighter, Fire Apparatus Engineer, Company Officer and Fire Marshal. He was also a licensed Fire Investigator and Paramedic. He is a retired member of Local 439 IAFF a member of the Elgin Retired Firefighters and a member of the Retired Firefighters of Illinois.

Mr. Dunne then served for 12 years with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/ Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a Fire Program Specialist. In this role he aided fire departments to access funding to the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program within FEMA's Region 5 and Region 10.

Mr. Dunne also served in the United States Air Force Reserve (USAFR), in the communications and medical career fields. While serving in the USAFR he deployed to Operation Desert Storm, where he flew tactical medevac missions. His final military assignment was at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command, Office of the Command Surgeon General where he served as the Enlisted Manager of Training and Education. He retired with the rank of Chief Master Sergeant (E-9) at the end of a 30-year career.

Mr. Dunne also served his community where he was elected to three terms as a member of the Elgin City Council.

Mr. Dunne was also an Adjunct Faculty member for Eastern Gateway Community College, in Steubenville, OH, where he taught in the Fire Science Program.





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## Kim Verdone, MFL

Manager, Degree Audits, Youngstown State University

Ms. Kimberly Verdone is a 34-year veteran of higher education. She joined Youngstown State University in 2014 as Director of Degree Audit, Transfer Articulation, and Academic Credit Transfer. Initially serving under the Office of the Provost, her role transitioned to the Office of the Registrar in 2021. In this capacity, she oversees a range of academic programs including Prior Learning Assessment and Transfer Articulation Agreements, and serves as YSU's liaison to the Ohio Department of Higher Education on matters of transfer credit, policy, and compliance.

Before joining YSU, Kimberly held a variety of faculty and administrative roles at institutions both in the United States and abroad. Her experience includes positions at the Colegio de Estudios Superiores de Administración in Bogotá, Colombia; West Virginia University; the University of Charleston; Marshall University; the University of Pittsburgh; and the former Clarion University of Pennsylvania (now part of Pennsylvania Western University). She currently serves on multiple statewide committees, including the ODHE Compliance Advisory Committee, the Best Practices Transfer Advisory Board, the Ohio Articulation and Transfer Network (OATN) Advisory Board, and the Valuing Ohio Veterans Committee. While at Clarion, she also contributed to the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education through the Transfer Articulation and Oversight Committee.

In addition to her professional service, Kimberly has been actively involved in several community organizations. She has served as a board member for the Community Action Crossroads Project covering Clarion, Jefferson, and Clearfield counties in Pennsylvania, and volunteered with Mid-Atlantic Youth Services/Western PA Childcare. She has also participated in Divorce Care support groups. Professionally, she is a longtime member of organizations such as Phi Kappa Phi, the Pennsylvania Black Conference on Higher Education, NACADA, and the National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletes (N4A). In recognition of her longstanding commitment to higher education and student success, she received the Distinguished Service Award from Youngstown State University in 2024.



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## Charlie Dixon

**Captain (Ret), President – Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors; Fire/Industry Content Advisor – Ohio Natural Energy Institute GOSAFER**

Charlie Dixon, Captain (Retired), brings over 48 years of combined volunteer and career fire service experience. He is currently an Ohio Certified Fire and Emergency Services Instructor II, Live Fire Instructor, and Firefighter II. Charlie holds an Associate Degree of Technical Study in Fire and EMS Services. He teaches part-time at the Wayne County Regional Fire Training Facility and serves on the advisory boards for Public Safety Training at both Eastland-Fairfield Career & Technical Schools and C-TEC Career and Technology Centers of Licking County.

Throughout his career, Charlie has held multiple specialized roles including Certified Fire Safety Inspector, fire/arson investigation team member, and HazMat team member. He served as a volunteer firefighter and Advanced EMT with the Bladensburg Fire District, rising to the rank of Lieutenant. From 1987 to 2002, he served with the Granville Volunteer Fire Department as a firefighter, EMS provider, Lieutenant, Captain, and EMS Coordinator. He taught Fire and EMS courses for Knox County JVS and the former Licking County JVS, and has instructed at fire schools across Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Charlie is a former Triage Paramedic, Hospital EMS Coordinator, Fire Training Officer II, and Fire Training Supervisor at the Ohio Fire Academy. He later worked for the City of Columbus Division of Fire as a civilian EMS educator, training recruits and on-duty companies.

Now in his third term on the Ohio Fire Council, Charlie represents the flammable liquids industry and also serves as President of the Ohio Society of Fire Service Instructors. He received the 2024 Fire Educator Lifetime Achievement Award from the Ohio Division of EMS. Alongside 20+ years in the oil and natural gas industry, Charlie has developed training props and materials for oil and gas safety programs at the Wayne County Regional Training Facility, where nearly 1,800 firefighters have trained since 2001. He is a Fire and Industry Content Advisor for the Ohio Natural Energy Institute's GOSAFER program and helps lead safety training for first responders and industry workers. In 2025, he was honored with the first-ever Charlie Dixon Excellence in Safety Awareness Award and continues to promote oil and gas careers through career fairs.

Charlie and his wife, Jill—who serves as a firefighter/paramedic for the City of Columbus—live in Licking County. They enjoy time with their adult children, beach vacations, golfing, and bird watching.



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## Joseph Mistovich, M.Ed, NRP

Professor Emeritus, Department Chair (Ret),  
Youngstown State University

Joseph Mistovich, Professor Emeritus, retired as Chairperson of the Department of Health Professions and as a Professor at Youngstown State University in Youngstown, Ohio, after 35 years of faculty service. For the first 11 years, he served as the EMS Program Director before becoming Chairperson of the Department. Throughout his tenure as Chairperson, he continued teaching EMS courses every semester until his retirement. He frequently teaches EMS education at the EMR, EMT, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic levels and continues to present at EMS conferences. He also remains active on professional boards and committees related to emergency medical services.

During his time at Youngstown State University, he received numerous honors including the Watson Award, the Chairperson Leadership Award, two Distinguished Professorship Awards in Teaching, a Distinguished Professorship Award in Research and Scholarship, and was the inaugural recipient of the Distinguished Chairperson Award for Excellence in Scholarship, which recognizes outstanding scholarship while serving as a department chair. He holds a Master of Education degree from Kent State University, a Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Allied Health, and an Associate in Applied Science in Emergency Medical Services, both from Youngstown State University.

He has authored fifteen EMS textbooks and more than fifty journal articles on EMS topics. Mistovich served on the Board of Directors for the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the EMS Professions (CoAEMSP)—the national accrediting body for EMS programs—for over nineteen years. He currently serves as a Reader, providing executive analyses of self-studies, and as a Program Action Team Member for CoAEMSP. Additionally, he has participated on numerous National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) committees related to Department of Transportation national curriculum revisions and was one of eight group leaders responsible for developing the National EMS Education Standards. He has also contributed to many National Registry of EMT projects, where he continues to assist with special initiatives.





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## Nicholas A. Mintz

Assistant Chief of Training, Youngstown Air Reserve Station Fire Department

Nick is a highly seasoned fire protection and emergency services professional with over 20 years of extensive experience in both civilian and military capacities. Currently serving as the Assistant Chief of Training with the USAF at Youngstown Air Reserve Base since March 2023. In this role, he is responsible for developing and managing an extensive training program that encompasses all areas of the base Fire Department. He spearheads ongoing proficiency training and organizes comprehensive fire training exercises in collaboration with both mutual aid departments and other military branches and bases.

In his distinguished military career, Nick retired from the United States Air Force in 2022 after serving from 2002. His military roles included Assistant Chief of Training at Youngstown Air Reserve Base (2015-2022), Crew Chief at Youngstown ARB (2014-2015). Nick has deployed to Kyrgyzstan and Kuwait, receiving multiple Air Force Commendation Medals and the Meritorious Service Medal.

Residing in Avon, Ohio, Nick enjoys family life with his wife, Pamela, and their children—Austin, Arielle, Carmody, and Hunter. In addition to his professional commitments, he is a dedicated volunteer coach for youth baseball, soccer, and football in his community, demonstrating his commitment to fostering the next generation.