

RED & BLACK BLAST

2026 Sponsorship & Host Packet

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9th Annual

RED AND BLACK
BLAST

February 25, 2026



ABOUT THE RED & BLACK BLAST

The 9th Annual Red & Black Blast will celebrate the life-changing IDD Education Center programs; Collaboration for Employment and Education Synergy (CEES), Transition and Access Pathways (TAP), IMPACT Innovation (IMPACT) and Regional Autism Advisory Council (RAAC). These programs are instrumental in helping people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) gain independence, uncover their passions, and thrive in a supportive and inclusive community.

At this year's Red & Black Blast, we are proud to honor Paul Kitzmiller, President of Impact Autism, who has lead the efforts of this bold and visionary organization that helped launch UC's IMPACT Innovation program. Their mission to change the world for individuals living with autism is brought to life by funding solutions that address the educational, health and social challenges adults with autism face every day. Because of their leadership and partnership, IMPACT Innovation has become a thriving space for lifelong learning, healthy living, and vocational exploration. Their driving vision to build communities where every adult with autism can be an enriched, engaged, healthy, and productive citizens continues to inspire us. We are deeply grateful for Paul's and the Impact Autism board's commitment, support, and belief in what is possible.

Thank you for partnering with us! Our programs depend on philanthropic contributions to breakdown barriers to provide opportunities for employment, social connections, and life-long learning.



ABOUT THE IDD ED CENTER

The University of Cincinnati's IDD Education Center's mission is to create meaningful, life-changing experiences for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) through innovative research, education and services. The IDD Education Center embraces the University's strategic direction of Next Lives Here, breaking boundaries and providing inclusive opportunities for employment, social connections and life-long learning.

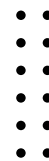
By supporting the 2026 Red & Black Blast, you can make a lasting difference in the lives of people with disabilities. Your partnership will drive positive change in our community by supporting the IDD

- • Education Center programs—CEES, TAP, IMPACT and RAAC—that are
- • dedicated to improving outcomes for people with IDD.

***Your sponsorship builds
brighter futures!***



ABOUT IMPACT AUTISM



IMPACT
AUTISM.

Impact Autism began in 1999 as a kitchen table initiative that grew into the annual Mayfield Classic golf tournament, founded by Diana and David O'Brien, parents of triplets with autism and chaired by Paul Kitzmiller. The first event raised \$10,000 for the Autism Society of Greater Cincinnati.

In 2006, IMPACT Autism was officially established to direct tournament funds to organizations making the greatest impact for families. Over time, the vision expanded to focus on education and employment for adults, funding autism teacher training at UC in 2009 and later supporting national research into innovative adult programs.

That work led to the launch of IMPACT Innovation at UC in 2015, creating opportunities for lifelong learning, healthy living, and vocational exploration.

With Paul and a dedicated team of volunteers, Impact Autism continues to drive change—partnering with the community to create opportunities, spark hope, and shape better futures for adults with autism.



*Photo: Left and Right: Paul Kitzmiller, President of Impact Autism
Center: Paul Kitzmiller, David O'Brien, Diana O'Brien, and Laura Kitzmiller*

CAN WE TOP LAST YEAR'S RESULTS?

4

Life-Changing
Programs

70+

Silent Auction
Prizes

450

Sold Out
Attendance

50

New Event
Supporters

**WHAT AN
IMPACTFUL
NIGHT**

28

Event
Volunteers

1

Inspiring
Honoree

350

Cincy Hats
Sold

30

Supporting
Sponsors

\$125,000

Raised in Silent Auction, Sponsorships and Donations

MAKE THE ULTIMATE IMPACT

BECOME A RED & BLACK BLAST HOST:

\$175 Host or Hostess

- Name listed on invitation and event program
- Includes 1 ticket to the Red & Black Blast
- Invitation to the VIP Party for you and a guest on 1/8/2026 at the Remington Room - *more information to follow*

BECOME A RED & BLACK BLAST SPONSOR:

\$25,000 Presenting Sponsor

- Supports the development of STEM career pathways

\$10,000 Platinum Sponsor

- Contributes to scholarship opportunities

\$5,000 Gold Sponsor

- Employs one of the 100 IDD Education Center student workers

\$2,500 Silver Sponsor

- Provides funds for a variety of art and STEM classes for a semester

\$1,000 Bronze Sponsor

- Provides annual UC Rec Center memberships for two participants

**See Sponsor benefits on the next page.*

Net proceeds from this event will benefit the IDD Education Center.

For information, please contact:

Nikki Murray, IDD Education Center, Nikki.Murray@uc.edu, 859-992-0091

Sabine Flessa, UC Foundation, flessase@foundation.uc.edu, 513-556-1414.

Make checks payable to: *University of Cincinnati Foundation and send to:*

University of Cincinnati

College of Education, Criminal Justice, Human Services & IT

ATTN: Sabine Flessa | PO Box 210002 | Cincinnati, OH 45221-0002

**We cannot accept sponsorships from Donor Advise Funds*

REGISTER
HERE

2026 SPONSORSHIP LEVELS & BENEFITS

PROMOTIONAL PERIOD: DECEMBER 2025 - MARCH 2026

Presenting Sponsor \$25,000	Platinum Sponsor \$10,000	Gold Sponsor \$5,000	Silver Sponsor \$2,500	Bronze Sponsor \$1,000
Exclusive to one sponsor				
Pre-Party: Meet & Greet Ted Karras	Pre-Party: Meet & Greet Ted Karras			
Video message during event	Verbal recognition during event	Pre-Party: Meet & Greet with Ted Karras		
Verbal recognition during event	Visual recognition during event: Name/logo	Verbal recognition during event		
Visual recognition during event: Name/logo	Recognition on Social Media: Name/logo, link to webpage and 1 spotlight	Visual recognition during event: Name/logo		
Recognition on Social Media: Name/logo, link to webpage, and 2 spotlights	Recognition on event webpage: Significant logo, and link to webpage	Recognition on Social Media: Name/logo, link to webpage	Visual recognition during event: Name/logo	Visual recognition during event: Name
Recognition on event webpage: Prominent logo, link to webpage		Recognition on event webpage: Name/logo and link to webpage	Recognition on Social Media: Name/logo	Recognition on Social Media: Name
*Invitation: Prominent logo recognition	*Invitation: Significant logo recognition	*Invitation: Logo recognition	Recognition on event webpage: Name/logo	Recognition on event webpage: Name
**Event Program: Double Page Ad	**Event Program: Full Page Ad	**Event Program: Half Page Ad	*Invitation: Name listed	*Invitation: Name listed
			**Event Program: Name and Logo	**Event Program: Name listed
24 Tickets to the Red & Black Blast	16 Tickets to the Red & Black Blast	8 Tickets to the Red & Black Blast	4 Tickets to the Red & Black Blast	2 Tickets to the Red & Black Blast

*Need sponsorship commitment by January 5, 2026 to be included on printed invitation.

**Need sponsorship commitment by February 2, 2026 to be included in event program.

cech.uc.edu/idd-ed-center

PRE-PARTY MEET & GREET

With Ted Karras

We are delighted to extend an exclusive invitation to a special pre-party cocktail hour with Honorary Event Chair, Ted Karras, NFL Center for the Cincinnati Bengals. This intimate gathering will take place one hour before The Red & Black Blast and is a unique opportunity to mingle with fellow sponsors and kick-off an exciting evening.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026, 5-6 PM

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI, TUC - 400B

2766 UC MAINSTREET, CINCINNATI, OH 45221

EXCLUSIVE PRE-PARTY INVITES FOR THESE SPONSORS:

\$25,000 Presenting Sponsor - 24 guest invitations

***\$10,000 Platinum Sponsor** - 16 guest invitations

***\$5,000 Gold Sponsor** - 2 guest invitations

**Guest invitations per sponsor*





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