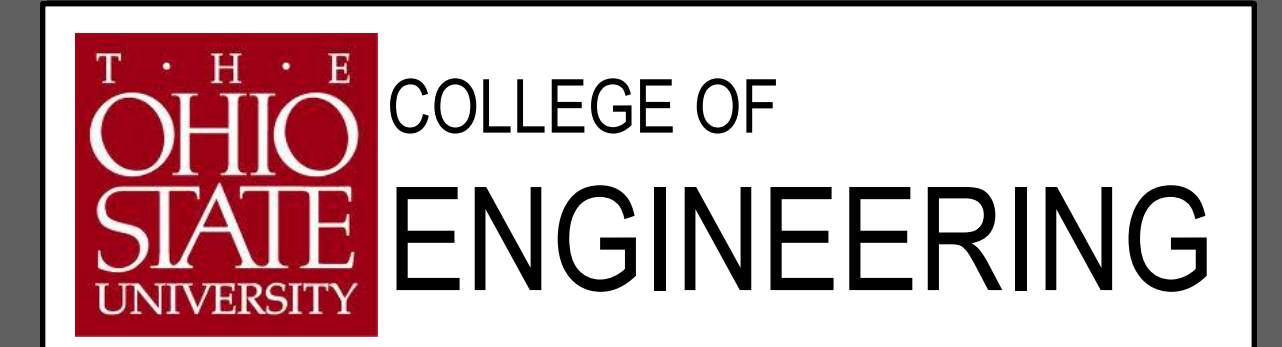


Building Wheelchair Ramps in Central Ohio for Those in Need



Son Ngo, Mechanical Engineering Undergraduate
The Ohio State University, College of Engineering, Columbus, OH USA



Engineers for Community Service

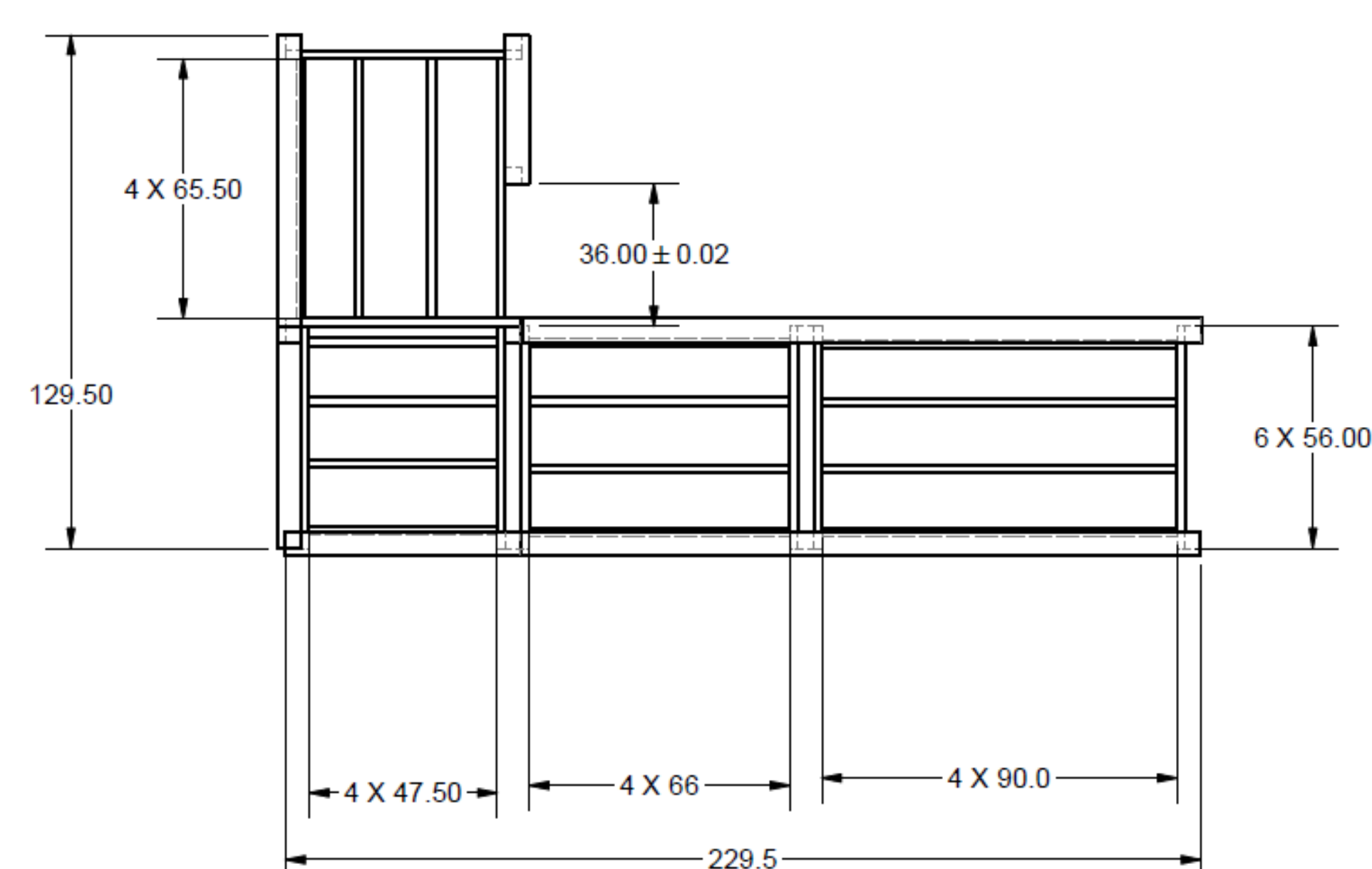
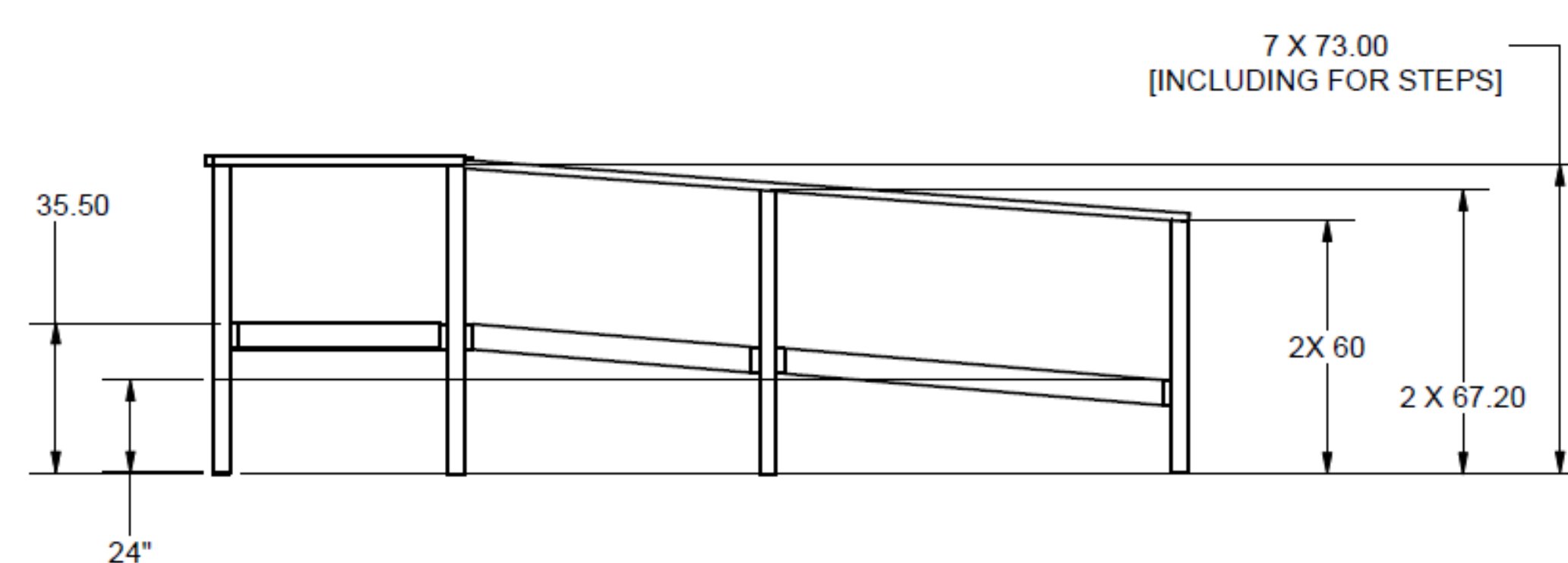
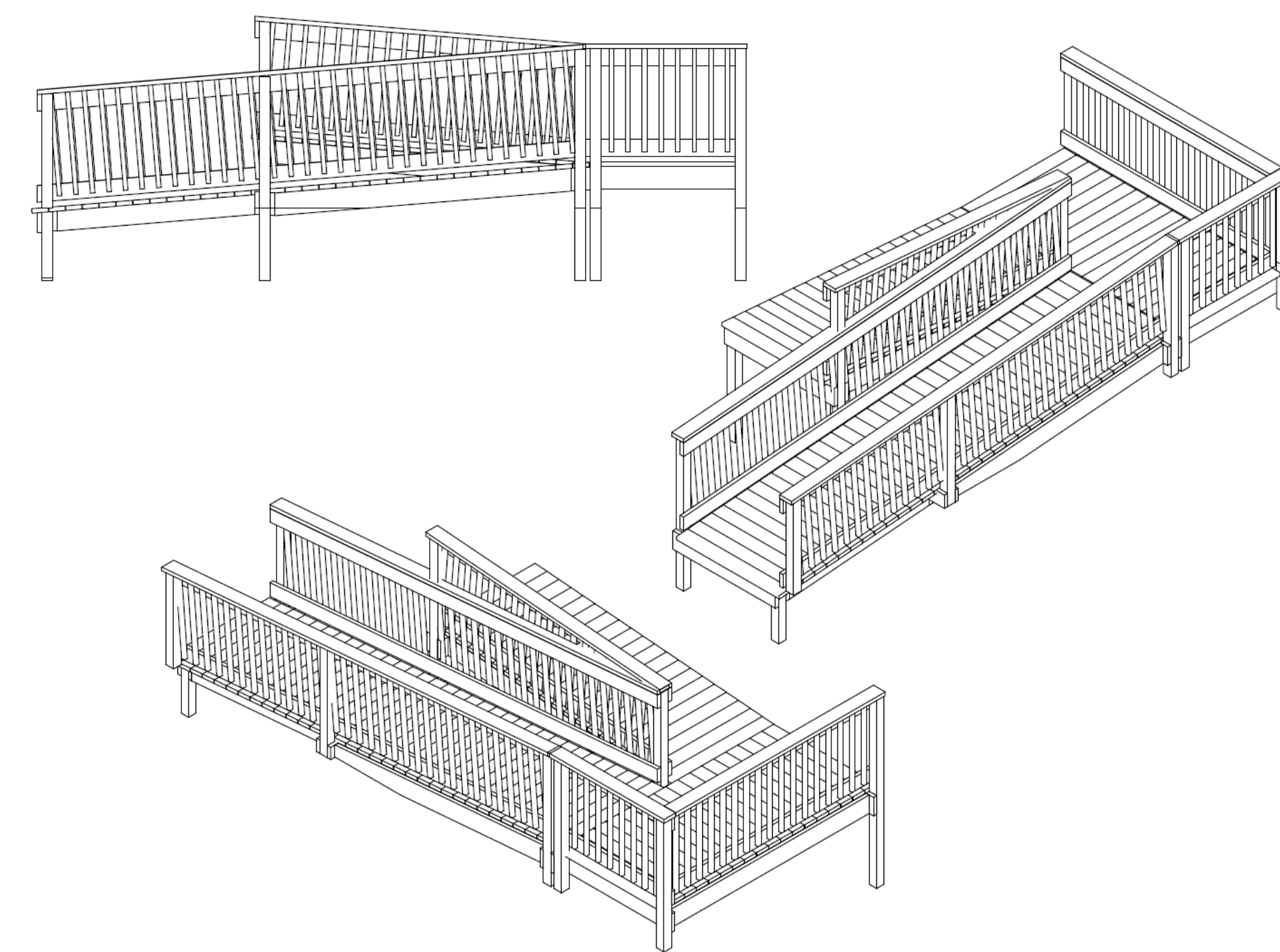
Engineers for Engineers for Community Service (ECOS) is an Ohio State University (OSU) student organization, started in 2005 by a group of undergraduate engineering students. It conducts community service projects both locally and internationally.

Description

One well established local project ECOS does is building wheelchair accesses at the homes of needy disabled individuals in the Columbus metropolitan area. These accesses are either wheelchair ramps or wheelchair lifts. The students receive referrals from social workers (at OSU Medical Center), churches or other sources. They design and construct the access structures, following Columbus building standards and codes. Since 2006, ECOS has built eight wooden wheelchair ramps and installed one electric wheelchair lift. The projects range in cost from \$1,000 to \$3,600 and are funded solely by ECOS. This is a continuing project for ECOS; the goal is to complete one to two accesses every school year.

Student Leadership/Contacts

- Kevin Sutton (sutton.205@osu.edu)
 ♦ President of ECOS
- Son Ngo (ngo.35@osu.edu)
 ♦ Vice President of Local Projects
- Jimmy Hynes (hynes.18@osu.edu)
 ♦ Wheelchair Project Leader
- Roger Dzwonczyk (dzwonczyk.1@osu.edu)
 ♦ Project/Faculty Adviser



Each project presents challenges that require innovative designs by the students to meet both Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility guidelines and Columbus City building codes.

