

2010 OACC EXCELLENCE AWARDS NOMINEES

MAUREEN C. GRADY AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

Eligible nominees must be a current or former trustee who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership throughout the term of their service as a trustee or throughout a particular period of their service and has also made outstanding professional contributions to their college or to community colleges as a whole. Additionally, candidates must be nominated by either a college president or board of trustees chairperson. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible.



Mr. Lewis M. Blackford's leadership and contributions are well known in the community college movement locally, statewide and nationally. Mr. Blackford served as a trustee for Edison Community College for ten years beginning in 1997. During his ten-year period of trusteeship, he served on numerous boards, was elected vice chair and chair of the Edison Board, and also served on the Edison Foundation Board. During his tenure as trustee, the college adopted policy governance as its governance model and undertook the construction of the \$9 million Emerson Centers for Excellence. Mr. Blackford also served in key leadership positions at the state and national levels, serving on the OACC's Education Committee, Executive Committee and Nominations Committee, as well as vice chair and chair of the association. He also served on the Central Region Nominating Committee, National Finance and Audit Committee, Public Policy Committee and as state chair for Ohio with the Association of Community College Trustees.



Mr. Jay Coury has served on the Cuyahoga Community College Board of Trustees since 2002. During this period of time, he has demonstrated extraordinary service, especially in the midst of economic uncertainty in our state and nation the past two years, during which time he served as chairman of the board. His dedicated leadership has proven invaluable to not only the Cuyahoga Community College, but to community college trustees and students around the state and nation as he has advocated in Columbus and Washington D.C. on such issues as state funding, tuition authority and the new University System of Ohio Strategic Plan. A noteworthy achievement is the Mr. Coury maintained 100% attendance at Board and Committee meetings, as well as participating in OBOR conferences and OACC meetings. Mr. Coury continues to serve Cuyahoga Community College as chair of the Management and Audit Committee.



J. Thomas Hill served as a trustee of Hocking College from 1982 to 2009. During his distinguished 27 year tenure, Mr. Hill displayed an unwavering commitment to both Hocking College and technical education. Recognized as the first graduate of Hocking College in 1970, he brought to the board a unique firsthand understanding of the concept of technical education, which at the time was still relatively new in Ohio. Mr. Hill was a champion for the establishment and development of the Hocking College Perry Campus in New Lexington. Additionally, Mr. Hill was determined in his support of developing new programs that would not split enrollments between the campuses, which has led to a significant increase in enrollment at the Perry Campus. Mr. Hill continues to be a strong and invaluable asset for the college and currently serves on the Hocking College Advisory Committee.



Mr. Joseph Matthews has been a true community college leader whose vision and belief in the community college mission has provided Eastern Gateway Community College (EGCC) with a strong base for expansion into three additional counties. Named to the board of trustees in 1988, Mr. Matthews' 21-year tenure has focused on service and community leadership in addition to his leadership at the college. His experience as a Wells Township Trustee and leading that community through tough and transitional times as they consolidated village services for three small villages into one township proved beneficial for the college. Mr. Matthews' experience in that arena served him well as he realized new opportunities for the college and played a key role in the expansion of Jefferson Community College to EGCC, taking the institution from a one-county service district to a four-county service.



Mr. Christopher J. Maurer has served on the Stark State College Board of Trustees since 1993, but the college has been benefiting from his service and leadership as far back as 1981, when he was appointed to the President's Advisory Committee. Among Mr. Maurer's many significant contributions to Stark State is the fact that he has been instrumental in the last two presidential searches, serving as a member of the 1983 search committee in his role as chair of the President's Advisory Committee, and again in 2003 while serving as a trustee for the college. In his 16 years as a trustee, Mr. Maurer has served two terms as vice chairman and is currently in his second term as board chair. During his tenure, Stark State has experienced the kind of growth and progress that is made possible only through the support of a strong board, coupled with strong board leadership. Worth noting is the fact that under his guidance, Stark State's enrollment has grown from 4,300 to 12,400 credit students, a 186% increase, and the operation budget has increased from \$12.3 million to \$58.5 million. Mr. Maurer also played a pivotal role in orchestrating the first of many business/college collaborations on campus. His vision has led to partnerships with companies like Diebold, Rolls-Royce Fuel Cell Systems (US), Contained Energy, Lockheed Martin and the Center for Defense Metals.



Mr. Dwight E. Smith's tenure as Columbus State Community College (CSCC) Trustee from 1999 to 2005, and as board chair from 2003 to 2004, has been marked by visionary and dynamic leadership. During this period of time, Mr. Smith helped the college expand in two breakthrough ways. First, drawing upon his 30-plus years of experience in information technology, and as an entrepreneur, Mr. Smith proved invaluable as Columbus State expanded its online learning, resulting in more students taking online courses than at any other college or university in Ohio. Second, he served as board chair during the college's historic decision to purchase land in Delaware County and build a second campus to better serve students throughout Columbus State's four-county service district. A successful businessman and proven leader, Mr. Smith believes that giving back is not an option, but an absolute requirement. To that end, he has also served in numerous leadership positions with various community economic, educational and social service organizations.



Mr. Jerome "Jerry" Tatar was recently named *Dayton Business Journal's* seventh most influential individual of the decade, having made a significant impact on higher education in Ohio and the Dayton region. The former president and chief executive officer of MeadCorp., Mr. Tatar understood the importance of education to successful economic development. He has held a number of volunteer leadership positions in higher education, having served on Sinclair Community College's Board of Trustees from 1996 to 2005, leading the board as chair for three years. He served as a member of former Governor Bob Taft's Commission for Higher Education and the Economy, where his private sector experience was tapped to provide insights on the linkages between education and economic development. Upon retiring from Sinclair's Board of Trustees, Mr. Tatar was selected to sit on the Ohio Board of Regents, serving from 2003 to 2007. He has helped directly shape the educational landscape in the Dayton area through his efforts to found and facilitate the initiative he named Montgomery County Education Advancement Dialogue, a program that brings area school superintendents, higher education administrators, school board members and foundations together to discuss how best to improve the quality of education in the area. Today, Mr. Tatar continues his dedication to providing quality, affordable education through his work on the Sinclair Foundation, having been named to the board of trustees in 2009.

TERRY M. THOMAS FRIEND OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES AWARD

Eligible nominees for this award are individuals who are not a trustee of a community college, but who, through their actions over a period of time, have significantly advanced the cause of community college education in Ohio on a statewide basis. Additionally, candidates must be nominated by either a college president or board of trustees chairperson. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible.



General Mills, Inc., has worked closely with Terra State Community College and Northwest State Community College in the support and development of quality education standards. As a result of these efforts, both colleges have been able to better determine the types of topics to teach in courses so that students are prepared to meet the needs of industry. Additionally, as a direct result of the support General Mills has provided, both schools have expanded online and virtual training courses, increased the number of courses both colleges have developed and provide for many industries, and provide live virtual classroom training for up to 100 General Mills facilities throughout the world. The partnership developed with General Mills has benefited the company and both Terra State Community College and Northwest State Community College in providing cutting-edge training opportunities.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD

Eligible nominees must be a graduate of a certificate or degree program at an Ohio community college, have attained notable professional achievements, as well as engaged in specific philanthropic or public service activity that supports the community and/or college. Additionally, candidates must be nominated by either a college president or board of trustees chairperson. Previous recipients of this award are not eligible.



Ms. Rhoda Crown graduated from Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) in 1984 with a degree in computer programming. She began her career 25 years ago in her hometown of Coshocton working as a computer programmer for the Coshocton Grain Company. Recognized for her hard work and dedication, this member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society quickly moved up through the ranks, and in 1999, at the young age of 35, was promoted to chief executive officer. An achievement worth noting when you consider that at the time, less than one percent of the grain elevators in the United States employed a female in the top executive role. Under her direction, the company now operates the largest regional elevator in east central Ohio, serving more than 900 customers who deliver more than nine million bushels of grain annually. Ms. Crown is also dedicated to giving back to her community, giving generously of her time and energy to programs like the Coshocton Youth Foundation where she does programming, and the Coshocton County Leadership Program giving presentations and tours. Recognizing the important role higher education had in shaping her life, Ms. Crown also serves as a member of the COTC Coshocton Campus Advisory Board.



Ms. Jo A. Grimm, a 1992 graduate of the former Jefferson Community College (now Eastern Gateway Community College), is a shining example of how a community college education can have a positive impact on a person's life. She cites becoming a mother as the catalyst in her life that motivated her to spend the better part of a decade obtaining the educational foundation needed, which began at a community college, to climb the corporate ladder. When she enrolled in her first class, Ms. Grimm was 36, working fulltime as a secretary at Ohio Edison, now First Energy, and a new mom. Through hard work, dedication and a commitment to wanting a better life for her and her daughter, Ms. Grimm persevered and earned an associate's of applied business degree. She would go on to graduate with honors from the business administration program at Franciscan University. Today, her hard work has paid off as she now manages human resources at two First Energy plants with a total workforce of nearly 700. Beyond her professional success, Ms. Grimm has also been recognized for volunteer efforts, among which include serving as a board member with Urban Mission Ministries, Inc., to help others realize their dreams.



The Honorable **Frank G. Jackson**, Mayor of the City of Cleveland, has built his 30-plus year career in public service on a foundation that began with a community college education. A 1975 graduate of Cuyahoga Community College, Mayor Jackson received an associate's of arts degree, going on to earn a bachelor's degree, and ultimately a law degree. Mayor Jackson has been a staunch supporter of Cuyahoga Community College, and the vital role that community colleges play in providing high quality, accessible and affordable educational, and job training opportunities for people from all walks of life. Recognizing the significant impact that community colleges have on the economic vitality of the community, Mayor Jackson launched the groundbreaking Cleveland Scholarship & Educational Training Program in 2008. This program provided any senior graduating from the Cleveland Public School System in June 2008 with a full scholarship to attend Cuyahoga Community College. Mayor Jackson galvanized the community and raised \$955,000 for this unprecedented program that ultimately provided for 438 students to attend Cuyahoga Community College. He has made education a cornerstone of his administration, fully embracing and supporting the community college mission.



Ms. Terri Jacomet began her college education at Edison Community College in 1998. Having delayed college to start a family, Ms. Jacomet attended college as an adult, and in 1999, graduated with honors with a degree of applied science in business. Upon graduating, she began full-time employment in a clerical position in the faculty support office at Edison Community College. Determined to achieve greater professional success, Ms. Jacomet continued to further her education, and today serves as Edison Community College's Vice President for Institutional Advancement. She also oversees Edison's Graduate Academy for Community Leadership, an academy for area not-for-profit executives and volunteers, culminating in an annual conference. Ms. Jacomet is a prime example of how through education, perseverance and a belief in oneself, a person can achieve anything.



Mr. George W. Lemon is a well-known community leader with a reputation for getting involved, getting things done and bringing people together for positive change. Earning a degree in electrical engineering technology in 1965, Mr. Lemon is one of Stark State College's earliest graduates. Following a distinguished 23-year career in the U.S. Army and National Guard as a commissioned armor officer and helicopter pilot, he retired with the rank of major. In 1997, Mr. Lemon founded Technical Products Group, Inc., a company providing sales and marketing support to manufacturing companies. He retired as president of the company in 2007. Prior to that, he spent 25 years with AMETEK, a Fortune 500 company, where he held various positions, including vice president of marketing and sales for the technical motor division. A tireless community volunteer, Mr. Lemon has served as Chairman of the United Way of Greater Stark County's Family Economic Independence Impact Council, and on the United Way's Board of Directors. Mr. Lemon was recognized for his outstanding community volunteer service when the United Way of Greater Stark County presented him with the prestigious Gold Key Award.



Ms. Phyllis Mason's commitment to education is clear. She is a two-time graduate of Rio Grande, having received an associate degree of applied science in sociology from Rio Grande Community College in 1993 and a bachelor of science in human resource management from the University of Rio Grande in 1996. Graduating with academic honors in both instances. In 1999 she earned a master's of business administration from Wright State University. Today, Ms. Mason serves as Vice President of Human Resources for the University of Rio Grande. As a first generation community college student, Ms. Mason is well aware of the needs of community college students and the methods that can be used to retain students. In addition to her professional endeavors, she is also very active in the community. Ms. Mason has served as a member of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Board of Directors, and also as a member of the Gallia County Animal Welfare League.



Sheriff Kyle Overmyer is a 2001 graduate of Terra State Community College, where he earned an associate of science degree in law enforcement/police science. Using his experience at Terra State as a foundation, Sheriff Overmyer went on to earn a bachelor of business administration degree from Tiffin University in 2003. His career in law enforcement began in 1996 as a corrections officer for the Sandusky County Sheriff's Office, working his way up to the road patrol division, to detective sergeant, and then detective captain focusing on narcotics investigations. He was appointed sheriff in September 2008 following the untimely death of David Gangwer. Apart from his professional responsibilities, Sheriff Overmyer is a member of several service organizations, including Kiwanis, Exchange Clubs, Moose, VFW, Sandusky County Juvenile Court Advisory Board and the Sandusky County Save Our Homes Task Force. He continues to give back to Terra State Community College by sitting on its Law Enforcement Advisory Board, as well as serving as an adjunct faculty member.



Mr. Alan M. Sattler is president of Flower Hospital, which is part of the ProMedica Health System. Mr. Sattler has worked with ProMedica Health System for more than 24 years in various leadership roles. A resident of Rossford, Mr. Sattler began his career in higher education at Owens Community College, graduating with an associate's degree in marketing and sales. He went on to receive his master's in business administration and his bachelor's from the University of Toledo. Mr. Sattler is a member of the Owens Community College Foundation Board of Directors, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to raise funds and friends to support scholarships and programs at the college. Additionally, Mr. Sattler assisted Owens Community College as an alumnus whose image was used in an award-winning marketing campaign. As a community college graduate who earned two subsequent degrees and has had a long, successful career in health care administration, Mr. Sattler exemplifies achievement. More specifically, his story helps drive home the point that community college graduates can achieve great heights.



Ms. Susan Tucker has served the community in many facets, such as deputy auditor and Cambridge City Schools Superintendent. Although she is now retired, Ms. Tucker's commitment to education continues as she is often called upon by public school systems throughout the state to share her professional knowledge and experience. As an alumnus of Zane State College, Ms. Tucker contributes extensively of her time and professional expertise as a member of the Zane State College Foundation Board of Directors, a position she has held since 2006. In 2008, Ms. Tucker initiated a scholarship program to help Zane State College students from Guernsey County obtain a quality education that can lead to a higher quality of life. In addition to her service to education, Ms. Tucker has been involved in numerous community organizations, including Kiwanis and Guernsey-Morgan-Noble Tri-County Headstart. In 1995, she was recognized by the governor for her outstanding public service.



Ms. Ethel Washington-Harris is a retired major account manager for DPL, Inc., and is an active community volunteer. As an African-American woman who rose through the management ranks of the Dayton Power & Light Company, and as a Sinclair Community College graduate who ultimately earned a master's degree from Central Michigan University, Ms. Washington-Harris has seen, and personally experienced, the benefits of education, perseverance and a positive outlook on life. Ms. Washington-Harris embodies commitment to community, as exemplified in her long-standing service on the Sinclair Community College Board of Trustees. She served on Sinclair's Board of Trustees for 15 years (from 1992 to 2007), and was the Personnel and Curriculum Committee Chair for eight of those years. In addition, she has served on the present and past boards and committees of other community organizations, such as Clothes That Work, the American Red Cross, Montgomery County Human Services, United Way of Greater Dayton and the Girl Scouts of America. Currently, Ms. Washington-Harris fills her days working directly with children as a tutor at the Richard Allen School and as a mentor through the Natural Helpers Program of the Montgomery County Juvenile Courts.