



# Central News

July 2022 – News of the Ohio School Boards Association Central Region

## DR. TINA PIERCE LEADS CENTRAL REGION

Due to the resignation of former **Marion City** board member and Central Region president **Leslie Schneider**, Dr. **Tina D. Pierce** assumed the position immediately.

Pierce is serving her first term as a proud member of the **Columbus City** Board of Education. A program manager in the John Glenn College of Public Affairs at Ohio State University, Pierce is responsible for developing strategic initiatives and programs and the general administrative oversight for the professional development unit.



She is a graduate of Ohio State University, earning a doctor of philosophy in political science with a graduate interdisciplinary specialization

in college and university teaching; a Master of Arts in political science; a Bachelor of Arts in social and behavioral sciences with distinction in political science; and a Bachelor of Arts in humanities with distinction in African American and African studies.

Pierce and her husband, **Andrew Pierce Sr.**, have four children **Andrew II**, **Malcolm**, **Catherine**, and **Michelle**.

**Dennis E. Long**, **Galion City**, was appointed as the Central Region president-elect for the remainder of 2022.

## UNDERSTANDING BONDS AND LEVIES

The Central Region Executive Committee created a list of topics they believe to be useful for new board members and for those members who may want a subject refresher. One such topic is understanding school finances, specifically bonds and levies.

Ohio school districts are financed with a combination of federal, state and local funds. At the state level, school districts receive funding from the Ohio Department of Education's (ODE) general revenue funds and Ohio Lottery profits. At the local level, school districts receive funding from locally levied property taxes and/or income taxes approved by voters.

OSBA's legal team has created an excellent fact sheet explaining the differences between a tax levy and bond issue, the common types of levies, the definition of a mill, and much more. For more information please visit, <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/59229>.

## RECOGNIZE EXCELLENCE

The Central Region Executive Committee is intentional about how it honors excellence.



The region recognizes district nominees for the Friend of Public Education and Exemplary Employee award.

The third award, determined by the region president and executive committee, is the Champion of Public Education award.

The Friend of Public Education award and the Exemplary Employee award epitomize what the region's board members and district administrators believe to be the heart of effective districts.

Consider nominating an outstanding **non-teacher** employee for the Exemplary Employee award or an invaluable community member for the Friend of Public Education Award. Forms are available on the Central Region webpage at [www.ohioschoolboards.org/central-region](http://www.ohioschoolboards.org/central-region).

Districts may nominate one individual for each award. The process is simple, and it's an opportunity to bring positive press and communication about people who go the extra mile for your district.

Recipients will be recognized at Fall Conference on Sept. 21. Plan to participate in the Central Region fall awards program.

**Nominations are due by July 9.**

## CENTRAL REGION LEGISLATIVE OPEN HOUSE – SAVE THE DATE

Plan to join us on Aug. 23 for the region's summer legislative open house. A legislative update for school leaders will be presented by OSBA Lobbyist **Nicole Piscitani**.

This session provides board members an opportunity to learn about legislative issues that impact their school districts. Time is set aside for questions and answers.

Tolles Career and Technical Center will host the event. Tolles is located at 7877 US 42 S, Plain City, Ohio, 43064.

The **free event** begins with social time at 6:30 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7 p.m. For registration information, visit <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/events/view/central-region-open-house>

The open house is a great kickoff for the new school year and an opportunity to hear the latest important legislative news while networking with fellow board members. We hope to see you there.



## INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS RECOGNIZED

The 2021 programs selected to exhibit at the Student Achievement Fair featured innovative projects and programs created by districts to boost student achievement and student engagement. Central Region Student Achievement Fair participants featured the fine arts and sciences, and the students and teachers did not disappoint. Nominations for the 2022 show are now open and we encourage all of you to submit a program.

Honored as the region's Outstanding Programs were: Bloom-Carroll Middle School Tech Club and Bloom-Carroll High School Innovation Lab, **Bloom-Carroll Local (Fairfield)**; Fort Hayes Arts & Academic Dance Ensemble, **Columbus City**; Virtual Career Day, **Licking Heights Local (Licking)**; Career Readiness Curriculum and London Unlimited, **London City**; Mansfield Senior High School Culinary Arts, **Mansfield City**; Olentangy Academy STEM, **Olentangy Local (Delaware)**; Touch of Class Show Choir, **South-Western City**; and Explore STEM, **Worthington City**.

The region also honored two districts as Outstanding Schools for receiving the Blue Ribbon Schools Award. The award, given by the U.S. Department of Education, recognizes schools with high-achieving academic standards and those that closed achievement gaps among students.

Only 15 Ohio public schools earned this designation, and two of those schools belong to our region. Congratulations to Dublin Jerome High School, **Dublin City**; and Granville High School, **Granville EV**.



From left, OSBA Chief Executive Officer **Rick Lewis**; **Mike Aurin**, **Dublin City** principal, Dublin Jerome High School; **Beth Herchek**, Dublin Jerome High School English Teacher; OSBA President **Robert M. Heard**, **Cleveland Municipal**.



**Marion City's** Marion Harding High School Stardusters perform at the region's spring conference.



From left, OSBA Chief Executive Officer **Rick Lewis**; London City College and Career Readiness Coordinator **Betsy Dennis**; London City Director of Virtual Programs and Innovation **Carla Shaw**; OSBA President **Robert M. Heard**, **Cleveland Municipal**.



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT FAIR

The Student Achievement Fair is one of the most rewarding exhibitions at the Capital Conference. The event showcases many innovative programs districts have created to boost student achievement and engage students in their learning. The exhibition offers excellent opportunities to learn about new programs, share ideas and celebrate what Ohio's public education is all about — helping students achieve.

One of the most important aspects of the show is that students explain their work and skills learned to OSBA participants as they visit each booth. Often, a healthy conversation occurs as programs are highlighted.

**Nominations for digital art and innovative programs are open.** We urge you to nominate a program from your district. For more on the student achievement fair, please visit <http://conference.ohioschoolboards.org/student-achievement-fair>



Explore STEM – **Worthington City** students sharing the highlights of their innovative program.

## URBAN NETWORK

The Ohio School Boards Association began working closely with Ohio's urban school districts in 1967 when the state's seven largest districts came together to form the Large City Commission.

The group established itself as a strong force for Ohio's urban districts through the 1980s. In the 1990s, district representation was expanded from the original seven to 15, and the group's name was changed to the Urban Commission. In 2010, the commission expanded to 24 districts and its name was changed to the Urban School District Advisory Network.

In 2014, the Ohio Department of Education designated 54 districts as large or small urban school districts. Now, more than ever, urban school districts can benefit from the good work being done across the state. The OSBA Urban Network is continually working to benefit urban school districts through:

- collaboration, communication, sharing and publishing information and current promising practices;
- training geared toward relevant educational opportunities and common issues;
- legislative advocacy and leveraging collective assets to benefit urban school districts.

All board members and administrators are invited to be part of the network. The next meeting of the Urban Network will be on July 20. Details are on the OSBA's website training and events page.





## SMITH REGION'S FIRST NEW MASTER BOARD MEMBER AWARD

Only two board members in the state received the master board member award this year under the new Service, Training, Aptitude and Recognition or STAR Awards program. Several board members in the state who earned their Master Board Member status under the former program, earned all the components for the new award. While these members are not eligible for the new award, Central Region recognized **Lee Schreiner, South-Western City**, as one of these board members.



Dick Smith, **Marysville EV**

A board member who earns each component of the STAR Awards in a three-year period is recognized as a Master Board Member. Once a board member becomes a Master Board Member through the newly revised process, that status can be maintained by passing the Aptitude test or receiving a combined 150 points in the Training and/or Service Award categories every three years.

**Dick Smith, Marysville EV**, completed all the STAR requirements and received his Master Board Member Award. Smith was very intentional about setting goals to complete the STAR Awards program. He serves as a member of the OSBA Board Member Cabinet, Federal Relations Network and as legislative liaison. Further, Smith has testified on numerous occasions for various legislative actions, served as his district's facilities committee chair and served as a past governing board member for the West Central Community Correctional Facility. Finally, he has served as the vice president of the Marysville EV Board of Education for many years.

Congratulations, Dick! The Central Region is very proud of you.

## MILESTONE SERVICE WINNERS



From left, OSBA Chief Executive Officer **Rick Lewis**; **Virgil Staley**, Mount Gilead EV; and OSBA President, **Robert M. Heard**, Cleveland Municipal.

The region celebrated board member service at the Spring 2022 conference. **Amy Oxley, Berne Union Local (Fairfield)**, was recognized for 10 years of service.

Board members recognized for 15 years of service are as follows: **Amy Deeds, Granville EV**; **Amy Eyman, Lancaster City**; **Chris Blacka, Jonathan Alder Local (Madison)**; **Daniel Litzinger, Pickaway County ESC**; **Darrel L. Severns, Danville Local (Knox)**; **Debra Kelley, Heath City**; **Dennis E. Long, Galion City and Pioneer CTC**; **Eric Park, Ridgedale Local (Marion) and Tri-Rivers CC**; **Jody Goetzman, Mount Vernon City and Knox County CC**; **Lorie White, Shelby City**; **Matthew A. Weller, Delaware City**; **Ray Storts, Union Scioto Local (Ross)**; **Scott Allen, Logan Elm (Pickaway)**; **Scott Melody, Dublin City**; **Ted Backus, Delaware City and Delaware Area CC**; **Tim Bachelder, Northmor Local (Morrow)**; **Vincent B. Popo, Walnut Township Local (Fairfield)**; and **Virgil Staley, Mount Gilead EV**.

## CENTRAL REGION STARS

### OSBA STAR Award Winners

Each year the Ohio School Boards Association presents awards to board members across the state who demonstrate dedication to self-improvement, service to their association and work on behalf of their own board.

The **OSBA Service Award** was presented to 56 board members across the state. Nine of those recipients were from the Central Region. Dr. **Jennifer Cornman**, former board member, **C-TEC of Licking County** and **Granville EV**; **James William McGowan**, **Eastland-Fairfield CC** and **Teays Valley Local (Pickaway)**; **Leo Knoblauch**, **Eastland-Fairfield CC** and former board member **Whitehall City**; **David Harper**, **Jefferson Local (Madison)** and **Tolles CTC**; **Richard McLarnan**, **Knox County ESC** and **Knox County CC**; Dr. **Marguerite Bennett**, **Knox County CC** and **Mount Vernon City**; **Leslie Schneider** former **Marion City** board member; **Ted M. McKinniss**, **Marion City** and **Tri-Rivers CC**; and **Lee Schreiner**, **South-Western City**.

Fifty members received the **OSBA Training Award** – seven hailing from the Central Region. **Renda M. Cline**, **Mansfield City**; **Sue Devine**, **Marysville EV**; **Angela Abram** and **Deborah Marie Dunlap**, **Reynoldsburg City**, **Lee Schreiner**, **South-Western City**; **Jennifer Best** and **Charlie Wilson**, **Worthington City**.

## STAR AWARDS

To recognize school board members for the time they spend improving their boardsmanship and leadership skills, the STAR recognition program was developed.

Four awards comprise the program: service, training, aptitude and recognition. Previously, points for activities related to service and training were used for the Award of Achievement and Master Board Member honors. Now, the Service and Training awards have been separated based on the type of activity.

**Service:** Points for the Service Award accrue from local school board, district, region and state leadership, including service on OSBA committees and local board offices and committees. The Service Award requires 150 points to be earned within a three-year period.

**Training:** Points for the Training Award are earned from professional development events and activities delivered by OSBA. The Training Award requires 200 points earned over a three-year period.

**Aptitude:** A new category, the Aptitude Award, requires a board member to demonstrate an understanding and comprehension of a variety of board governance skills based on six leadership areas: vision, accountability, policy, community engagement, relationships and advocacy. To receive this award, board members must receive an 80% passing score on an online assessment. The assessment will be offered in June and July and may be taken multiple times by a board member who does not receive an 80% score and wants to try again during the annual assessment period.

**Recognition:** A board member may be nominated for the Recognition Award by his or her own school board by a majority vote of the board. This award replaces the previous Outstanding Board Member Award and honors board members most dedicated to the craft of being a model board member.

## THE CENTRAL REGION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**Lee Schreiner**, South-Western City  
OSBA immediate past president

**Dr. Tina D. Pierce**  
Columbus City, president

**Dennis E. Long**  
Galion City and Pioneer CTC, president-elect

**Renda M. Cline**  
Mansfield City, immediate past president

**Jennifer Adair**, Columbus City  
member, OSBA Board of Trustees

**Dr. Marguerite Bennett**, Mount Vernon City  
Knox County Career Center  
member, OSBA Board of Trustees

**Kevin W. Butler**,  
Canal Winchester Local (Franklin)

**Anthony Caldwell**, South-Western City  
member, OSBA Board of Trustees

**Sue Devine**, Marysville EV  
**Whitney Duemmel**, Jefferson Local (Madison)

**Amy Eyman**, Lancaster City

**Dr. Robert Haas**, Tri-Rivers Career Center

**Quinn Maceyko**, Cardington Local (Morrow)

**Ted M. McKinniss**, Marion City  
Tri-Rivers Career Center

**Richard McLarnan**, Knox County ESC  
Knox County Career Center

**TBD**, Olentangy Local (Delaware)  
member, OSBA Board of Trustees

**Ray Storts**, Union Scioto Local (Ross)

**Charlie Wilson**, Worthington City

**Dr. LaKesha Wyse**, Olentangy Local (Delaware)

**Roger Zeune**, Southwest Licking Local (Licking)

**Kim Miller-Smith**, regional manager

## CENTRAL REGION FALL CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 21

Mark Sept. 21 on your calendar today! You will not want to miss the Central Region Fall Conference. Friends of Public Education, Exemplary School Employees, Outstanding Teachers, Champion of Public Education, board members with more than 30 years of service and those who earned STAR aptitude and recognition components will be honored.

The association president and chief executive officer will provide OSBA news, and important legislative updates will be shared. Attendees will be entertained by a student performing group from **Columbus City** and a keynote speaker to be announced, soon.

The event will be held at Villa Milano. A social hour will begin at 5 p.m. **Reservations are \$40 per person.** Register at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/crfall2022>.





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## OSBA STAR APTITUDE ASSESSMENT

The OSBA Aptitude Award requires a board member to demonstrate an understanding of a variety of board governance skills based on six leadership areas: vision, accountability, policy, community engagement, relationships and advocacy.

**The assessment period is June 13, 2022 through July 8, 2022.** Board members can take the assessment at their convenience in the designated time frame.

OSBA has a list of activities to prepare for the assessment including self-directed reading, attendance at workshops or participating in webinars. For more, visit <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/aptitude-award>.

## PROMOTE STUDENT SUCCESS

Another topic suggested by the Central Region Executive Committee – How can a district promote student success without a dedicated PR person?

We have a toolkit for this very purpose. Go to <https://www.ohioschoolboards.org/student-achievement-promotion> and find useable and interactive guides. The resources include documents or sites that provide ideas for what to promote, how and when to use an infographic, how to get media coverage for the positive work in your district, using social media and creating an effective communication plan.