

ROBERT J. EGAN, M.D.
Family Medicine Physician
Oakland Community College
Outstanding Alumnus for 2004



Robert J. Egan, M.D., has served in the health care field for 28 years, most of which have been devoted to serving Detroit's inner city.

Dr. Egan attended Eastern Michigan University for three years in the early '70's. His fascination with medicine was kindled while working as a surgical orderly and custodian at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor. He worked for a time as a nursing assistant at Deaconess Hospital/Samaritan Health Center in Detroit and eventually enrolled in Oakland Community College's highly-regarded EMT program.

As a non-traditional student working full-time, he earned his Ambulance Attendant Certificate and his Emergency Medical Technician License from OCC in 1982, maintaining a grade point average that placed him on the Dean's List.

He worked briefly as an EMT while also working at Deaconess Hospital and enrolled at Wayne County Community College where he received an Associate of Science Degree in Nursing in 1985, again, with Dean's List recognition. He became a psychiatric nurse and also taught First Aid, CPR and Basic EMT for the American Red Cross and Lifeline Training and Consulting.

In 1986, Dr. Egan returned to emergency medicine as a Certified Emergency Nurse at Mount Carmel/Grace Hospital. He worked as an agency nurse, adding home care to his skills. He also decided it was time to complete his undergraduate degree and go on to medical school.

His eleven-year journey to his medical degree began in 1991 at Wayne State University where he majored in Biology while continuing to work the midnight shift in the ER. In 1993, he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree, Magna Cum Laude, with a Certificate of Excellence. He went on to Wayne State University School of Medicine, receiving his Doctorate in 1999, at the age of 45, graduating in the top half of his class.

Dr. Egan completed his Family Practice residency at William Beaumont Hospital-Troy in 2002 with an emphasis on obstetrics. He was recognized for maintaining standards of excellence, and received the "Yogi Berra Award" for delivering (or, to explain the baseball metaphor, "catching") the most babies in his residency class.

Dr. Egan's lifelong commitment to social justice has included facilitating a medical ethics discussion group; serving as a member of Student Physicians for Social Responsibility and teaching violence prevention to inner-city elementary students; and presenting on health issues to Alternatives for Girls, a Southwest Detroit program for at-risk girls.

Dr. Egan has been married for 21 years to Arlene Frank, Director of the OCC Womencenter. They and their 17 year-old son, Aaron, live in Detroit.