

HISTORY OF THE OCC FOUNDATION AND ITS LEADERSHIP

In January of 1979 the Oakland Community College board of Trustees discussed "how memorial scholarships might be perpetuated." After conferring, a motion was made and supported to create a committee to explore the possibilities of establishing permanent memorial scholarships, and to investigate ways to involve community leaders for the benefit of the college and its community. The committee was composed of two board members appointed by Board Chair Lila Johnson, and three staff members appointed by OCC President Robert Roelofs.

In August of 1979, OCC's Board of Trustees unanimously approved preliminary goals for the Foundation as proposed by the committee, and authorized the committee to take all steps required for incorporation. The OCC Foundation was legally established on October 23, 1979. Its first board members were those original "ad hoc" committee members; OCC Trustee Earl Anderson; OCC Trustee Suzanne Reynolds, Vice-President, Business & Finance Woldemar Nikkel; Auburn Hills Dean Keith Shuert; and Orchard Ridge Dean Charles Yeramian.

A few years later, OCC Trustee and then-Chairperson Sandra Ritter shared her perspective: *"The goals of the Foundation are to secure additional awareness, understanding and all types of support for the College through the services of volunteers who serve as members of the Foundation Board. As independent volunteers, their efforts to communicate and facilitate the goals and mission of the College among new circles of influence in Oakland County add another avenue for community involvement, and strengthen the College in a way that neither employees nor elected trustees are able to do. (In this way, we can) build new programs, improve existing programs and expand opportunities for OCC students, faculty and staff."*

Many notable and dedicated community leaders have served on the OCC Foundation Board of Directors through its three decades. For 25 of those years, Doris Mosher was a Board Director who generously supported the OCC Foundation with her time, talent and philanthropy.

Mrs. Mosher was passionately committed to OCC and its Foundation. She worked determinedly to secure OCC's first operating millage in 1964, and to engage the support of the community-at-large throughout the years. She and her husband George established an endowed scholarship fund which has provided more than twenty scholarships to date. She served several terms as Chair for the Foundation Board, and was named Chair Emerita in 2000. She served in that capacity, continuing to attend Board meetings and events, as her health allowed, until her death in October of 2007.

To pay tribute to Mrs. Mosher's enduring leadership, the OCC Foundation Board of Directors voted to honor her as part of the Foundation's 30th anniversary celebration. It requested that the OCC Board of Trustees authorize the renaming of the "Guest House" building (which has housed the Foundation since its inception) as the Doris Mosher Foundation House. The OCC Board of Trustees unanimously approved the request in March 2009. A ceremony commemorating the Foundation's anniversary and marking the re-naming was held at the Doris Mosher Foundation House on the afternoon of October 23, 2009, the exact day of the 30th anniversary of incorporation.



Doris Mosher
Foundation Chair Emerita
(deceased)



Wally Nikkel
Original Board Directors
2005 photo



Earl Anderson
Original Board Directors
(deceased)