



Contact: Craig Burford
Executive Director
Ohio ESC Association (OESCA)
burford@oesca.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ohio ESC Association Awards Presented to Educational and Community Leaders at Award and Recognition Program

Columbus, Ohio – On Monday, November 13, 2023, the Ohio Educational Service Center Association (OESCA) recognized 23 educational and community leaders from across the state for their commitment and dedication to their local communities, educational service centers and Ohio’s K-12 education system.

The awards were presented at the *37th Annual Ohio ESC Association Awards and Recognition Program*, which is held in conjunction with the Ohio School Board Association’s annual Capital Conference. The recognition program was developed in 1985 to recognize outstanding educational service center (ESC) and school district board members and community leaders. Over the past 37 years, OESCA has recognized more than 1,280 board members, educators and community leaders.

This year’s award recipients include ESC and district board members, state agencies, ESC staff, State Representative Jay Edwards and other community leaders.

“This program demonstrates how Ohio’s 51 Educational Service Centers bring together exemplary leaders, community resources, business, industry and government to better serve Ohio school districts and students,” stated OESCA Executive Director Craig Burford. “The awards are a way ESCs recognize and thank those they work with who have provided outstanding service to the education community.”

The [OESCA Award program](#), which includes award categories and definitions and full recipient information, is available on the OESCA website (www.oesca.org -> Awards -> [OESCA Awards](#)). Also on the website: links to recipient photographs.

Ohio’s educational service centers (ESCs) provide school districts with professional development, technology, support, planning, and administrative services that help improve student learning, enhance the quality of instruction, expand access to resources, and maximize operating/fiscal efficiencies. The Ohio ESC Association (OESCA) supports, educates and advocates for Ohio’s ESCs. www.oesca.org

###

Attachments: 2023 Ohio Educational Service Center Association Award Recipient list by county

2023 Ohio Educational Service Center Association Award Recipients

| Nominating ESC | Award Recipient | Award |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Brown County ESC | Ohio Means Jobs - Adams and Brown County offices | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| Clark County ESC | Leslie Crew, Clark County Family & Children First Council | Torch Award |
| Columbiana County ESC | Columbiana County Mental Health & Recovery Services Board | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| Columbiana County ESC | Columbiana County Port Authority | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| Columbiana County ESC | Anna Marie Vaughn | Carol E. Austin Lifetime Achievement Award |
| ESC of Eastern Ohio | Duane Piccirilli, Mahoning County Mental Health & Recovery Board | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| ESC of Eastern Ohio | Ryan Tekac, Mahoning County Health Commissioner | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| ESC of Eastern Ohio | Susan Kovach, Deputy Director of Community Health | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| ESC of Eastern Ohio | Kathi McNabb Welsh, Attorney & ESC Governing Board member | Distinguished Service Award |
| ESC of Eastern Ohio | Emily Young, America Makes Education & Workforce Development Coordinator | Torch Award |
| Fairfield County ESC | Rick Szrabrak, Fairfield County Director of Economic & Workforce Development | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| Fairfield County ESC | Angela Krile, Krile Communications | Torch Award |
| Hamilton County ESC | Michael Harlow, Hamilton County Board of Elections | Outstanding Leadership Award – ESC Governing Board Member |
| Lawrence County ESC | Jeff Saunders | Carol E. Austin Lifetime Achievement Award |
| Muskingum Valley ESC | State Representative Jay Edwards | Legislative Leadership Award |
| Muskingum Valley ESC | Judge Luann Cooperrider | Outstanding Leadership Award - Community |
| Muskingum Valley ESC | Dr. Richard Hall | Torch Award |
| Muskingum Valley ESC | Homer Weekley | Torch Award |
| North Central Ohio ESC | Lori Lowe | Teamwork Award |
| Summit ESC | Stephen Miller | Torch Award |
| Summit ESC | Andrea Patt | Torch Award |
| Summit ESC | Dr. Missi Zender-Sakach | Torch Award |
| Warren County ESC | Pam Tone | Lifetime Achievement Award |