

# OCC candidates stress education backgrounds

By Kathy Parrish  
staff writer

Four candidates for Oakland Community College's two open trustee posts appeared before faculty members to explain why they are running for the six-year terms.

Speaking at a "Meet the Candidates" session sponsored by the OCC Faculty Association at the Orchard Ridge Campus were Willard C. Kendall, Avon Township; Deanna D. Klossinski, Bloomfield Hills; Sandra L. Ritter, Waterford; and Vera Tessier, Avon Township.

Not present was Southfield resident Douglas Wakefield, who also will be on the ballot Monday. During the hourlong program, candidates summed up their qualifications to serve on the seven-member board of trustees.

After a three-minute wrap-up, each answered a question selected for him or her. Like members of the audience, all the candidates have worked in the education field. And most stressed that academic background to faculty listeners.

**NOW DIRECTOR** of employee relations at Oakland University, Willard C. Kendall taught high school and was a faculty member, academic administrator and director of labor relations at Macomb County Community College.

"I had the opportunity to observe how a community college functions and how trustees function. I think I have an understanding of what faculty feels," said Kendall.

The Avon Township resident added that he also knows firsthand the difference between a university and community college.

"Community colleges do many things universities do not do and cannot do. But I believe relations between the two should be fostered."

**AS EDUCATION** coordinator for Beaumont Hospital's School of Technology,

Deanna Klossinski coordinates 11 levels of education at the Royal Oak facility.

She believes working with hospital staff as well as many OCC students has given her insight to understand administrative concerns, faculty needs and student expectations.

Trustee Sandra Ritter, a former Detroit teacher now administrative assistant to U.S. Rep. Bob Carr, asked listeners to extend her "contract."

"Six years ago I thought faculty and staff were the college. I know now faculty and staff are the college," she said.

Ritter added she wants to help maintain OCC's status — "It's high and rightful status."

**VERN TESSIER** also spent five years teaching finance and economics at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Now with shopping center developer Al Taubman, the Avon Township resident has seen companies "utilize the kinds of technology we are trying to teach our students in community college."

Candidates answered questions about topics ranging from TIFA (Tax Incentive Finance Act), OCC's goals, "shared governance" and "where the community college will be in the 1990s."

**TALKING ABOUT TIFA**, which gives tax breaks to businesses by declaring Downtown Development Districts, Tessier said it's important to keep industry in Michigan. "We can't let other states lure them away."

But the candidate stressed that he's generally opposed to a tax break "which does not gain industry which wouldn't otherwise be there."

"Does a city have a right to divert school taxes for a parking deck in downtown Rochester?" he asked the faculty audience. "I think the answer to that is 'no.'"

**ASKED** "WHERE we will be in the

1990s," Ritter answered, "Whether the 1990s or the 1980s, the challenge is there." She believes that challenge includes serving a growing population with a growing number of early retirees with more leisure time, more technology and finding money without upping tuition.

"Funding in community colleges can no longer be placed upon the backs of taxpayers and students who pay tuition," she believes.

Ritter's concerns about the future include the rising cost of running a college, especially with the growing emphasis on high tech.

"I'm also concerned we'll become so cost conscious we'll do away with liberal arts," added the Waterford resident. "Are we just going to take part of the mind and educate it or work on the whole mind, the whole person?"

**KLOSSINSKI** said she believes the community college's goals "are on target and being fulfilled better today than they were before."

She has worked with OCC students for five years at Beaumont Hospital and is working on a doctorate in education. She called "impressive" OCC's growth, diversity of curriculum and variety of programs offered.

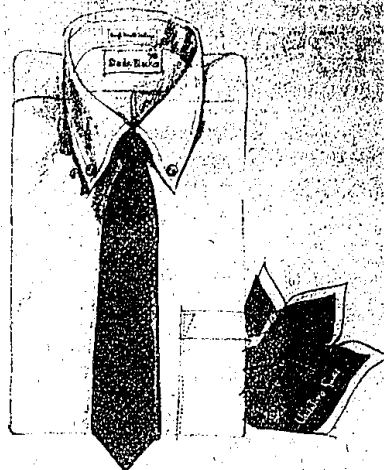
"And the students are impressive," Klossinski added. "They study hard and have an exceptional work ethic. They're ready to work."

"And they're thinkers, a lot smarter than I thought they would be."

**SPEAKING ON** "shared governance," Kendall said exceptional companies consult with the people who actually do the work.

"If you ignore them, you are giving up the real search for excellence. But administrators do have a perspective too. We should not be committed just to excellence in the classroom, but in programs and the institution."

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## Reagan roundup in Oakland

A number of celebrities will be on hand for the statewide "Reagan Round-Up" voter registration drive Saturday.

The Michigan event, starting in Oakland County, will kick off the president's national campaign for a second term.

Beginning the day will be a 10:30 a.m. rally at the state Reagan-Bush '84

Headquarters, Greenfield and Eight Mile roads in Oak Park.

Appearing will be Maureen Reagan, the president's daughter; actor Chad Everett, former heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson, former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher Don Newcombe and U.S. Rep. Goy Vander Jagt, R-Luther.

Four other events — in Howell, Lansing, Ionia and Grand Rapids — will mobilize volunteers and register voters for the Nov. 6 presidential election.

The campaign tour will move on to meet at noon with volunteers at Marion House in Marion Township, just south of Howell.

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