

13 seek 2 posts on OCC board of trustees

THE biggest crop of candidates in decades is seeking two seats on the Oakland Community College Board of Trustees in the June 13 election, the same time K-12 school board members are elected.

Thirteen candidates, including incumbent David Hackett, are seeking the six-year, unpaid posts. Trustee Edward Pappas declined to seek reelection after being appointed to fill a vacancy.

The seven-member board regularly meets once a month, at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Thursday, in OCC's George Bee Administrative Center at 4200 Queen Road in Bloomfield Hills. The board appoints and evaluates the chief executive (chancellor), adopts a \$40 million

operating budget, and offers both academic and vocational two-year programs.

The college has five campuses — Auburn Hills, Highland Lakes, Orchard Ridge, Southfield and Royal Oak — plus a small, new Pontiac Center.

Two candidates' nights are scheduled:
• 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 1, in Dunkel Junior High, 32800 Twelve Mile, Farmington Hills — sponsored by the American Association of University Women.

• 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 2, in Bloomfield Hills Middle School, 4200 Queen Road — sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Birmingham-Bloomfield.

The biographies and answers from candidates on

this page were gathered by the LWV of the Rochester Area. Candidates were asked:

1. What do you think are your most important qualifications for being a member of the board of trustees of Oakland Community College?
2. What do you see as the appropriate role for a public (as distinct from a private) community college (as distinct from a university) in supporting economic development, technology transfer and work force education in its region?
3. As a trustee of OCC, what would be your most important goal for the future development of the institution?

The League of Women Voters is a national, nonpartisan organization whose purpose is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government. It neither supports nor opposes any political party or candidate. It takes no responsibility for any views or facts stated by candidates.

Biographical information and answers to questions were secured by letter. Answers are in the candidates' own words and have not been edited except for cutting down replies exceeding word limitations. Publication of these statements and opinions of candidates is solely in the interest of service to voters and is in no way to be construed as an endorsement by the LWV.

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HURTICENE HARDWAY-SHEPHERD, 37, of 618 Balboa, Pontiac. U. of Michigan Law School, J.D., 1975; Wayne State U., B.A. in psychology and sociology, 1972. City attorney of Pontiac.

1. Since January, 1981, I have served as a Milliken appointee to the Ferris State University board. I have experience in the issues which the policymaking body of an institution of higher education must address and the board's role in governance. I have also been chairperson of the Ferris board. Nearly 10 years as a public sector attorney provides legal expertise on the many issues with legal implications a governing board must address.

2. As publicly funded education resources serving specific regions, community colleges are morally obligated to provide continuing education to their taxpayers constituents. Only through re-education programs developed through alliances with constituent employers and social agencies servicing displaced workers can technology transfer and skilled workers, which are vital to economic development, be realized. These alliances are necessary to ensure technological re-education programs required for the current and foreseeable economic development needs of the region are offered.

3. One goal would be to maintain the open door policy to educational opportunities. My goal of continued outreach to region employers, social agencies servicing displaced workers, and local communities to determine their education and re-education needs so programs to meet their needs are offered would be meaningful if those most in need of the programs cannot enroll in them.

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RALPH V. MARANDA, 57, of 3330 Poli Road, Orionville. B.A., M.Ed., Wayne State University. Teacher in Royal Oak schools and English.

1. I have been an educator in Royal Oak high schools for 23 years, and feel this experience qualifies me to make decisions with understanding what young people need. I also feel comfortable with more mature, who are responsible for good decisions. I have an empathetic response to those needing help with improving their lives since I was rescued by the community college system of Oakland County. Experience as an active member of the MEA.

2. Recently, OCC has offered the first scholarship in its 25 year history. The board of the OCC Foundation apparently seeks to ensure an opportunity for promising students who otherwise might not be able to receive an education. This is the primary goal of the community college: to reach out with opportunities at the grass roots. Local campuses and a close relationship with local business/technology coupled nicely with economic development goals, serving everyone involved.

3. The most important goal for OCC is providing a greater opportunity for a greater number of people. This can be accomplished primarily through an expansion of services offered by the school, and really require a two part approach. First, the development of quality education/curriculum, but with reasonable cost/containment. Secondly, we should promote even greater cooperation between local business-industry and OCC.

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THOMAS S. NELSON, 37, of 327 S. Telegraph, Pontiac. B.S., Macomb Community College; B.S., education/biology, Wayne State University; 18 graduate hours, Oakland U.; 11 hours, Detroit College of Law. Police Officer, Owner of Oak Real Estate Co., Killman/Janet's Tea Co.

1. Intelligent (member of Mensa). As a union steward, and chairperson of various organizations in the past, I am able to objectively sort and weigh various alternatives, ideas, and negotiate with others for a common goal. I have taken classes at OCC (GPA 4.0) and am familiar with the areas it serves.

2. (a) Provide first two years for those students, usually out of high school, wishing to pursue a higher degree; (b) provide technical training, certificate/degree programs to launch people into careers; (c) upgrade skills for those people in careers that need to keep up with current trends; (d) provide classes in various areas/subjects that individuals may want to pursue as an avocation or for pleasure.

3. (a) Making high school students aware of the benefits of starting higher degrees at OCC; (b) expanding all locations to meet the public needs, with particular attention Auburn Hills which may have 50,000 students coming from the Chrysler Center alone.



RICHARD A. BLONDE, 33, of 1669 Ridgeway, Rochester Hills. Graduate of Bloomfield Hills Anderson High School (1973). Current student of Oakland Community College. 54 credits; 3.89 grade point average.

Thirteen-year employee of Michigan Bell Telephone Co., serving as an analyst.

1. As a student of Oakland Community College, I deal first hand with the issues and resulting decisions of the board of trustees. Being constantly in touch with the students and faculty of this college, and by monitoring the pulse of this populace, as well as that of the county residents, I will bring to the board of trustees a unique perspective on college affairs.

2. The "single leading factor" in regional growth and economic viability is that region's supporting educational system. The community college is a vital link in this educational system. It is the bridge between secondary and higher levels of education, providing its students with the skills and technologies necessary to compete in the workplace, as well as in the four-year colleges and universities.

3. It has been said "We have more opportunity in Oakland County than anywhere in America." I agree and believe we need a community college whose programs, curriculum, resources and equipment reflect this enhanced opportunity, and are kept current with business and industry. As a trustee of Oakland Community College, I will seek an increased awareness and support for adequate funding of our community college network. We must keep in mind that our results never exceed our resources.



DAVID WALKER MELDMAN, 32, of 4555 Timberland Court, Walled Lake.

University of Michigan, 1976, bachelor's; Washington & Lee Law School, 1979, J.D.

Attorney specializing in labor relations.

1. I am attorney specializing in labor and employment relations. As such I can bring to the board my perspective and experience in its own relations with the staff and faculty. With my experience as an attorney for an apprentice school, I can assist in establishing a marketable skills program for students interested in that aspect of the college.

2. An educational institution must preserve its academic freedom to properly serve the needs of the community in the future. To do this the school must remain detached from the private economic sector while being sensitive to the need for economic and business development. The transfer of knowledge and meaning should not be subsumed by the transfer of technology. Economic development can be further supported by involving the skilled trades in facilitating occupational skills programs.

3. The biggest challenge facing the community college in the next decade will be meeting its educational obligation to those who have not completed high school. As the growing number of high school dropouts mature, they will be looking for educational opportunities that the community college can provide. One of my goals is to provide yesterday's dropout with the opportunity to become tomorrow's educated, productive taxpayer.



JAMES A. DOYON, 41, of 957 Sprague, Madison Heights. A.A., Henry Ford Community College; B.A., Oakland University; M.A.T. candidate, Oakland University; additional credit, University of Michigan, master's in public administration.

Oakland County commissioner and high school social studies teacher.

1. Since 1971, I have served seven terms as Oakland County commissioner, with responsibility for multi-million dollar budgets, several thousand employees and internal policies which have affected over 1 million people. I have had to analyze budgets, formulate policies and establish tax rates, for over 13 years. I have graduate credit and experience which has enabled me to bridge the gap between theory and practical application of governmental operations.

2. To provide opportunities for students to begin the process of familiarization with the new "high tech" tools. A place to begin the process for selection of a career driven education. Community colleges are in the best position to train a displaced workforce. At Henry Ford Community College, they are beginning a joint venture with Ford and the UAW to retrain displaced Ford workers, on the college campus. A program like this is possible at OCC.

3. My most important goals would include: (a) keep tuition affordable by keeping costs under control; (b) keep curriculum based in practical applications of sound educational principles; (c) maximize the ability to transfer credits to other institutions when students graduate or transfer; (d) provide sound career and educational counseling; (e) retain a qualified educational and administrative staff which will support student academic achievement; (f) keep the college geographically available to all district residents; (g) provide programs that will attract students to the college.



BEN E. PEARLMAN, 61, of 6185 Old Orchard, Birmingham.

Oakland Community College; University of Michigan.

Restaurant owner. Benjes Fish & Seafood, Sylvan Lake, Tugs Restaurant, Waterford.

1. A sincere commitment to higher educational opportunities, academic, vocational/technical and job retraining for all Oakland County residents. Business background experience in dealing with budgets, fiscal management, insurance, federal, state and local taxes. Involved in public education for 15 years. Taught in the high schools in Detroit for five years and Royal Oak for 10 years.

2. Community colleges are on the cutting edge of economic development by the nature of their role and mission. It must reflect needs and anticipate the community's future. The economic development of the county is contingent upon the community resources, the people of the county. If we do not adequately prepare and enhance the work force to meet the challenges of the county's growth, changing technology and workplace, we have not lived up to our promise.

3. To continue to be a college of the community. To be physically and financially able to meet the needs of our diverse county.



EDITH L. GONZALEZ, 64, of 3889 Old Creek Road, Troy.

B.S., Oakland University. Retired from everything but community service.

1. My local, state and national participation in public school board governance is appropriate background for service as a community college trustee. I recognize the role of the community college in the educational structure of the community. As we emphasize the requirement for technical training and life-long educational opportunities, academic, cultural and technical programs, the continuing strength and nurture of Oakland Community College is of paramount importance.

2. Community colleges receive almost two-thirds of their funding from taxes. In order to maintain this support, justify it, and at the same time perform the service for which they were founded, it is essential that their program design remain focused on human resource development. Community colleges are essential in assisting the transition of individuals from potential to qualified candidates for jobs. The role of a university or private educational institution is not so specific.

3. We need to demonstrate to parents and students the obvious advantage of an educational continuum provided by a community college program. Whether a secondary student is seeking a four-year degree or a two-year technology credential, community college enrollment may be the most effective choice. This should be encouraged as a goal decision during the early secondary education experience. My goal would be to make such a 14-year program a standard educational expectation.



GENE P. STANLEY, 57, of 400 South Boulevard, East, Pontiac.

B.B.A., Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio.

President, Gaskler Storage Co.; chairman, Cove Container Corp.

1. Persons entrusted with public office should be honest, objective, committed to mission, dedicated to duty, aware of purpose, and have a logical mind. These same qualities are essential to success in all endeavors. I submit that I have displayed these attributes throughout a 30-year career of starting and operating several ongoing businesses. My entrepreneurial background has provided me with a broad range of experiences and perspectives which would be beneficial to board service.

2. A public community college should encourage and support faculty and staff participation in community affairs and economic development activities. A community college must be cognizant of socioeconomic conditions in its region so that it may respond to changing needs in the job environment. Relevant voc/tech training is essential in dynamic employment markets and is fundamental to the mission of an urban community college.

3. My primary goal as a Trustee of OCC would be to rejuvenate and enhance the physical plant and educational equipment. The college is 24 years old, and the original facilities are suffering from normal wear and tear and obsolescence. Educational equipment must keep pace with technological development and be consistent with contemporary industry standards. A comprehensive voc/tech program requires that students have access to equipment typical of that encountered in the work place.



DAVID W. HACKETT, 64, of 1380 Reby, Rochester Hills.

Ph.B., University of Detroit; M.A.T., Wayne State University.

Retired teacher and retired telephone technician.

1. I have the education, experience, temperament, dedication and commitment to serve Oakland Community College and the citizens of Oakland County in the future, as I have since the inception of the college in 1965. We cannot nor do we intend to, rest on our laurels.

2. The distinction is not in the role but in the mandate. A public community college is partly supported by direct taxes, is partly controlled by locally elected trustees and therefore has a mandate to serve all county residents as fairly and efficiently as possible. This helps the region to prosper, and the college is better able to fulfill the role as stated.

3. (a) To keep the college adequately funded and insure that funds are prudently expended. (b) To replace our retiring staff with persons of similar enthusiasm, creativity and dedication. (c) To keep abreast of technical advances in our management techniques, teaching equipment and course offerings.



LUCIUS THEUS, 66, of 4520 Stony River Drive, Birmingham.

B.S., University of Maryland; M.B.A., George Washington University; post graduate (advanced management), Harvard Business School.

President, The US Associates, and director of civic affairs, Allied Automotive.

1. Broad management and financial experience and a genuine interest in assuring that, within the constraints of funding, our students receive the highest quality education. Advocate of fiscal responsibility. Earlier, accounted for all U.S. Air Force funds. Served as president, Detroit Area Council Boy Scouts of America, Camp Fire Inc., and Concerned Citizens for the Arts in Michigan. Currently, vice chairman of board of Madonna College and trustee of Lane College and Embury-Riddle Aeronautical University.

2. Public community colleges must make quality education available to all residents of the county. Other objectives should be to produce well educated, skilled personnel who can immediately take their places in industry, business, and government. There should always be complete equality of opportunity for all segments — ethnic, religious, economic — of our society.

3. My goal is to assure that Oakland Community College continues to improve the global perspective of its educational programs — that is, arts, history, geography, and languages and provision of required technical skills. Proper assessment and efficient use of resources must be ongoing. Will actively support allocation of additional resources as required.



MICHAEL R. LEWIS, of 6776 E. Nashaway Drive, West Bloomfield.

1. A 15-year association with OCC as student, then employee, that has included being editor of the Orchard Ridge student newspaper, station manager of the students' created and operated radio station, WOFM, union representative to two college-wide presidential candidate selection committees, and former member of the OCC Alumni Association.

2. OCC's track is to be "working with" business. In fact, many of the same firms that have created and/or fostered questionable Downtown Development Authorities and TIFA's that take funding away from education and private citizen taxpayers. OCC should support appropriate education at all levels. OCC should do what it does best and leave university-level interests to the four-year institutions. It shouldn't be supporting business interests that work against K-12 education.

3. Encourage the hiring of new leadership for the college who are driven by the quality of work that they do for students — not by annual and supplemental income, trips and sabbaticals, outside contacts with industry or future career and retirement goals outside of OCC. This would lend itself to an austerity program that would keep administrative costs, tuition and "mystery" fees down. It would also allow the public's wallets to remain closed to millage increases.



MARCIA VAN CREVELD, 53, of 31055 Carriage Hill Road, Farmington Hills.

Bennett High School, Buffalo, N.Y.; Bryant and Stratton Business Institute; University of Michigan-Dearborn campus, real estate business law I and real estate business law II; Board of Realtors, education for real estate 1986, 1987.

Real estate broker.

1. The most important qualifications for membership on the Board of Trustees of OCC are a commitment to maintaining the highest level of affordable education and career development or improvement for our community and dedication to investing the time and effort necessary to accomplish these goals. My experience in areas of fiscal responsibility such as real estate and finance are also valuable assets. Board affiliations: Birmingham Board of Realtors, Community service, equal opportunity, public relations.

2. The public community college is the natural leader in the field of supporting economic development, as well as technology transfer and work force education. Because of its natural mix of students of all ages, the community college is better geared to deal with educational problems of the modern technological workplace. A much higher percentage of community college students are career and job training oriented rather than degree oriented.

3. As a leader on the cutting edge, so to speak, of the technological revolution in education, it is essential that Oakland Community College work hard to maintain its leadership position by carefully integrating its technology into all areas of the educational system. This would include job retraining education, student registration, classroom teaching technology and teacher evaluation and learning resource development. An exciting challenge in this area would be to integrate technology with the arts.