

# New trustee still working on OCC degrees

By Ralph R. Echlinow  
staff writer

An Oakland Community College student won a seat on the college's board of trustees Monday, beating his opponent by a margin of more than 2-1.

Richard Blonde, 35, of Rochester Hills, gathered 19,691 votes in the unofficial tally to beat Jay Shah's total of 7,746 for a four-year term.

Board chairman Sandra Ritter and trustee Douglas Wakefield ran unopposed for re-election. Ritter totaled 24,741 votes and Wakefield 20,585. Ritter and Wakefield were unavailable for comment.

Blonde said being an OCC student will make him a better trustee than he'd be otherwise. "As a consumer, I think I'm probably exposed more often to the factors that are very important," he said, adding that being a student gives him "a great insight into college affairs."

Blonde expects to finish his OCC education next April. He'll have a



Richard Blonde

degree in business and two in data processing.

ALTHOUGH IT may be awkward for a trustee to double as a student, Blonde said he wants to be treated like everyone else. "I would want that instructor to be completely at

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— Richard Blonde

ease," he said. "I'm just another student as far as that goes."

Blonde, who works for Ameritech Applied Technologies of Southfield, has attended classes at every OCC campus except Highland Lakes. "We're very fortunate to have an outstanding staff," he said.

His priorities as a trustee, Blonde said, are to find a new chancellor and get more money. "It would be real nice to pull some more dollars out of Lansing," he said.

Shah is on the Waterford Township Planning Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals and Oakland County Economic Development Corporation. He

said he phoned Blonde Tuesday to congratulate him on the victory.

"I had a very good experience in this first attempt (for elected office)," Shah said. "I want to thank the more than 7,000 people who voted for me. I don't have any regrets."

SHAH SAID he will probably run

again for the same position in 1992.

The current terms of office expire June 30 and Blonde will assume his seat at the July 2 organizational meeting.

Blonde will replace Edward Pappas, a Franklin attorney who was appointed to fill out part of the late Earl Anderson's term but declined to

run for the rest of the term.

OCC spokesman George Carlsson, who compiled the unofficial results, said it's not typical to have so few candidates in an OCC election. "We had 13 last time, so go figure," he said.

There were 72,803 votes cast Monday, beating the 1988 total of 55,097.



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