

She hopes to bring enthusiasm about community college to OCC board

On June 12, Oakland voters will elect two people from a field of six to the Board of Trustees of Oakland Community College, which has about 24,000 students on five campuses. Trustees are elected officials who set policy for the college. This is one of a series of brief profiles on the candidates.

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Oakland Community College undoubtedly has hundreds, probably thousands, of ardent supporters. It's hard to imagine, however, any of them being more enthusiastic than Marjorie Nanian Mugerian.

Recently, for example, Mugerian talked a neighbor girl and former baby-sitter into attending OCC. "She — who is very bright — tried a four year school and it didn't work out," Mugerian recalled, "and she was uncertain about the future."

"She came to my house to sell me a vacuum sweeper, and she left with a determination to go to OCC."

Mugerian said she had no second thoughts about recommending OCC. "I really believe in



Marjorie Nanian Mugerian

community colleges," said the Farmington Hills attorney. "They're wonderful stepping stones."

For Mugerian, community college was a stepping stone to a four-year university and a career in law. She earned an associate's degree from Jackson Community College in 1973 before graduating from Central Michigan University in 1975 and Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1982.

Now she's challenging for a place on the OCC Board of Trustees.

Community colleges in general — and OCC in particular — offer so many options to so many people, she said. "We can be a stepping stone to a better job," she said, "a stepping stone to personal fulfillment."

Part of Mugerian's interest in OCC developed through her children — Maryann, 12, and George, 9 — who both have learning disabilities. Mugerian was elated about OCC programs that help those with learning disabilities attend college. "Both my children will likely go to OCC," she said.

Mugerian started attending regular meetings of the OCC board about two years ago — long before deciding to run for trustee. Before long she was hooked. "I feel compelled to utilize my time and talents to serve on the OCC board," she said. "I want to lay the groundwork for an excellent community college for my children and others."

Running for the OCC board was almost natural, said Mugerian. "I've been a teacher, and I've been deeply involved in educational activities." She is, for example, on the board of direc-

tors at Eaton Academy in Birmingham — where her daughter is currently a student.

Mugerian is a past president of the Alex and Marie Manooogian Charter School, where her son is enrolled, and she also on the board of directors for the Formentor Home Owners Association.

Mugerian said her personal experience and professional background would help her be an asset to the OCC board. She believes her best attribute, however, is her ability to follow through on an idea or assignment. "Lots of people have great ideas," she said. "But when it comes to following through, I give 110 percent."

OCC is facing a number of challenges, Mugerian said, including next year when the school must convince voters to renew the property tax that provides more than \$20 million annually in operating revenue.

"That renewal means life or death for OCC," said Mugerian, meaning the school would be forced to make drastic changes if the ballot proposal should be defeated. She said the board should be ready for an informational campaign to convince voters the money is needed and

well-spent.

Mugerian sees so-called distance learning — offering classes via television or the Internet, as was done on an experimental basis at Cooley Law School — as a tremendous opportunity, especially for students with handicaps or learning disabilities.

Mugerian said she is not particularly concerned about sagging enrollment at OCC. "Here in the Detroit area, there are so

many choices for students," she said, "and competition is tough."

OCC has a recruiting advantage, she said, because it offers so many options that other schools don't have. "And we offer them at very reasonable rates," she added.

Other candidates for the OCC board are Richard J. Ashurst, Carol L. Creu, Pamela M. Davis, Athena Dumas-Laurence, and John A. Wangler.

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ger's door was open and the passenger and driver were fighting.

The driver seemed to be drunk. His 13-year-old daughter was in the back seat.

The driver admitted to drinking "a few Budweisers and a few shots."

After failing three sobriety tests and a breathalyzer, the driver was placed under arrest for operating a vehicle under the influence of liquor and

child endangerment.

The passenger had some outstanding warrants. Farmington officers handed her over to the Detroit Police Department.

The driver's sister picked up the girl at the police station.

"A lot of people are unaware of this law," Page said. "Hopefully, this will be a deterrent to parents who like to drink and drive."

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Individual experience does not explain why a good result occurred. One possibility is that the individual was about to enter a period of resolution anyway. At times you have met the person when the medicine seemed to help, but you had not met the person who had the same problem when the medicine was just as much a failure as other therapies. Also, the medicine may have serious side effects, but any one individual may have the good luck of avoiding any complications.

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