

Ohio School Boards Association

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Central Ohio school board member receives association's top honor

COLUMBUS — A Franklin County school board member is among five people to receive the most prestigious honor from the Ohio School Boards Association's (OSBA).

W. Shawna Gibbs, who has served on the Columbus City School Board for nine years, will be recognized as a 2016 All-Ohio School Board member Nov. 16 during the OSBA Capital Conference and Trade Show in Columbus. OSBA Executive Director Richard Lewis will introduce All-Ohio School Board members on the final day of the 61st annual conference, a four-day convention attended by more than 9,000 Ohio public school board members and education stakeholders.

The award recognizes outstanding service to public education and represents the dedication shown by thousands of board members across the state. Each year, OSBA names one board of education member from each of its five regions — Central, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast and Southwest — to the All-Ohio School Board.

All-Ohio School Board candidates are nominated by their respective school boards; OSBA regional committees then select the five winners.

Gibbs, who has been elected twice, represents OSBA's Central Region.

The communications consultant has been a steadfast advocate for families and the community. She is an avid supporter of I Know I Can Columbus, a nonprofit organization that helps Columbus City Schools' graduates pursue a college education; the King Arts Complex; Shirley Chisholm Conference for Girls in Government; Dr. Alexa Canady Conference for Future Doctors, Dentists and Nurses; and Morning of H.O.P.E. for Teen Suicide Prevention.

All-Ohio School Board 2/2/2/2/2/

In nominating Gibbs for the award, her colleagues wrote: “W. Shawna Gibbs is a true public education advocate that has used her nine years on the Columbus City School Board to ensure that all children have a voice in their destiny.”

Gibbs currently serves on OSBA’s Board of Trustees, Central Region Executive Committee, Black Caucus and Urban School District Advisory Network. The past board vice president and past OSBA Central Region Executive Committee president also has represented her district in the OSBA Delegate Assembly.

In its 61st year, OSBA leads the way to educational excellence by serving Ohio’s public school board members and the diverse districts they represent through superior service, unwavering advocacy and creative solutions.

For more information, contact OSBA or your local school district.

Note to reporters, editors: OSBA’s All-Ohio School Board honorees have been told they are receiving the award. Please feel free to contact them for feature stories, comments or photos. Gibbs’ phone number is (614) 284-4509. If you wish to cover the awards presentation in Columbus on Nov. 16, please contact Crystal Davis, whose contact information is at the top of this release. A photo of Gibbs is posted at <http://links.ohioschoolboards.org/44214>.