

**Sponsor Testimony: Budget Amendment**  
**Senator Edna Brown**  
**Senate Finance – Higher Education Subcommittee**  
**Tuesday, May 19, 2015**

Thank you, Chairman Gardner, Vice Chair Cafaro, and members of the Finance Higher Ed Subcommittee, for the opportunity to speak before you today. I am here to advocate for a simple amendment that will recognize the renaming of the University of Toledo Urban Affairs Center in honor of former Toledo Mayor Jack Ford.

The University of Toledo Board of Trustees recently approved renaming the Center the “University of Toledo Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center” in honor of John Marshall “Jack” Ford. The amendment I am here to support recognizes this name change in the state budget.

Jack Ford left a lasting mark in Toledo, in Northwest Ohio, and throughout our state as an educator, a public servant and a leader. He began his remarkable career working as a professor at the University of Toledo in 1979, shortly after graduating from the University with a law degree and a master’s degree in public administration.

From that starting point at the University of Toledo, Jack Ford served the public working with the Lucas County Mental Health Board, as an elected member of Toledo City Council, the Ohio House of Representatives, and as Mayor of Toledo in 2001.

Throughout his career, he displayed an unwavering devotion to the wellbeing of the Toledo community as well as remarkable leadership, having been elected as City Council President in 1993 and Democratic Leader in the House in 1998.

Jack Ford never lost his passion for education and returned to teach as a professor at the University of Toledo as well as Bowling Green State University following his time as Mayor. He returned to Toledo City Council in 2013, where he served until his passing on March 21<sup>st</sup> of this year.

Given his long and notable career as a public servant as well as his connections to the University, I believe this is a wonderful tribute to a man I considered my mentor and I am proud to advocate for this honorary naming here in the Senate.

The University of Toledo Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center will continue its mission to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life of Toledo and its metropolitan region by identifying challenges and facilitating solutions in the areas of neighborhood, urban, and regional development. Continuing this work is the most fitting tribute of all to the legacy of Jack Ford.

Chairman Gardner and members of the subcommittee, thank you again for the opportunity to come before you today. I will be happy to answer any questions.

\_\_\_\_\_ moved to amend as follows:

1 In line 94834, after "Toledo" insert "Jack Ford"

2 The motion was \_\_\_\_\_ agreed to.

3 SYNOPSIS

4 **Department of Higher Education**

5 **Section 369.393**

6 Per recent action by University of Toledo Board of  
7 Trustees, changes name of University of Toledo Urban Affairs  
8 Center to University of Toledo Jack Ford Urban Affairs Center.