

STATE OF OHIO

2023 AUG -8 AM 9:48

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Nikki C. Byrd, from Shaker Heights, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as a Member of the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning June 30, 2023 and ending at the close of business May 1, 2032, replacing Stephen F. Kirk, whose term expired.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of the State of Ohio to be affixed, at Columbus, this 30th day of June in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Three.

Mike DeWine
Governor



american greetings



Nikki Byrd is a senior editor at American Greetings, a global leader in the celebrations marketplace. Her sixteen-year career reflects a demonstrated track record of driving innovation and leading strategic editorial direction for a portfolio of world-class brands sold at retailers around the globe. In 2017, Ms. Byrd was named a Chairman's Award finalist in the category of Individual Excellence for her leadership, vision, and ability to inspire others.

After graduating from high school, Ms. Byrd joined the United States Air Force as a non-commissioned officer and served four and a half years as an audiovisual documentation specialist at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, and Andrews Air Force Base in Prince George's County, Maryland. During her military career, Ms. Byrd received several awards and decorations, including Senior Airman

Below the Zone, a competitive early promotion program restricted to exceptional Airmen who stand out from their peers, and Combat Camera Operator of the Quarter, an honor received over hundreds of service members from all branches of the U.S. military worldwide.

Ms. Byrd served as president of the Cleveland State University Alumni Association Board from 2019 to 2022. She also served as an ex officio member of the Cleveland State University Foundation Board, and as a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Visiting Committee (formerly CLASS) from 2019 to 2022.

She earned her B.A. in communication from CSU, where she graduated magna cum laude, and her M.F.A. in film from Columbia University, where she graduated with honors.

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One American Boulevard
Cleveland, OH 44145-8151
216.252.7300

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointment Date: 6/30/2023

Name of Appointee: Nikki C. Byrd

Address: 18418 Scottsdale Boulevard
Shaker Heights, OH 44122
Cuyahoga County
(H) – 2162527300
(W) –
(M) – 4408320416
(E) – nbyrd360@gmail.com

Name of Commission: Cleveland State University Board of Trustees
Heather Link, Chief of Staff
Office of the President
216-533-2172 (cell)
2121 Euclid Avenue, AC 316
Cleveland, OH 44115
(216) 523-7359

Term Begins: 5/2/2023

Term Ends: 5/1/2032

Party Affiliation: Democrat

Senate Confirmation: Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate

Financial Disclosure: Confidential disclosure required

Vice: Stephen F. Kirk

Ohio Senate Advice and Consent

Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Name: Nikki Byrd

Institution Being Appointed to:

Cleveland State University Board of Trustees

1. Are you a graduate of or do any of your dependents attend the institution to which you are being appointed as trustee?

Yes, I am graduate of Cleveland State University.

2. What is your position on the First Amendment rights of faculty, staff, and students, and how will you balance this with promoting diversity of thought on campus?

It is my opinion that all faculty, staff, and students have a fundamental constitutional right to freedom of expression and freedom of inquiry without fear of being professionally or socially ostracized. As a CSU trustee, I will uphold and advance the principles of free speech and inclusion in tandem, recognizing that the college experience is supposed to be about learning how to think critically and engage with diverse points of view.

3. In your opinion, what are three current significant issues affecting higher education?

Three significant issues currently affecting higher education are declining enrollment, falling student retention and completion rates, and affordability.

4. Do you feel comfortable presenting new or alternative solutions to issues presented to the Board of Trustees ("Board") by the president or other trustees of the institution to which you are being appointed?

Yes, I feel comfortable presenting new or alternative solutions to issues presented to the Board by the president or other trustees of Cleveland State University.

5. What are some ideas you plan to propose to reduce the overall cost of higher education?

Ideas I plan to propose to reduce the overall cost of higher education include exploiting technology by moving more classes online, reducing the costs of textbooks, digitizing academic libraries, offering accelerated degrees, and cutting unnecessary programs, to name a few.

6. What thoughts do you have on faculty tenure, post-tenure review, and annual faculty performance reviews?

Evaluations should be an integral component of the tenure and/or performance review process as they lay the foundation for setting goals, addressing areas that need improvement, and helping to inform determinations for faculty merit increases and future renewal decisions, which are all essential to student success.

7. What are your thoughts on ways to increase graduation rates at the institution to which you have been appointed?

CSU can maximize graduation rates by using retention data to develop interventions and identify high-impact programs that will help at-risk students succeed and ultimately graduate.

8. Is higher education in Ohio addressing the current and future workforce needs of our state, and how can the institution you have been appointed to better address these workforce challenges?

Higher education in Ohio is addressing the workforce needs of our state through grants and other programs that support workforce preparation partnerships. Cleveland State is also innovating to address the needs of the workforce by collaborating with partners in the public and private sector and offering a variety of programs with in-demand industries.

9. In your view, who are you ultimately responsible to serve as a trustee of the institution you have been appointed to: the president, Board chairperson, or taxpayers of Ohio?

As a trustee at CSU, I have a tremendous responsibility to the university, the public education system, and the citizens of Ohio. In addition, it is my duty to serve as an advocate for the university advising the president and ensuring the fulfillment of CSU's mission.

Please complete and return this form either by email at sd18@ohiosenate.gov or mail the completed form to:

**Senator Jerry C. Cirino
1 Capitol Square
Columbus, OH 43215**