

20

OHIO STATE
2020 NOV 15 PM 1:34

STATE OF OHIO
Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Kara J. Trott, from Columbus, Franklin County, Ohio, as a Member of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning November 8, 2024 and ending at the close of business May 13, 2033, replacing Hiroyuki Fajita, 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 8th day of November in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand and Twenty Four.

Mike DeWine

Mike DeWine
Governor

KARA J. TROTT

Founder and Board Chair

Healthcare is complex and gets more complicated every day. It can be very confusing and stressful to navigate, and most people are not well-equipped to do so without assistance. Kara Trott founded Quantum Health because she believed no one should have to go through the healthcare experience alone. People need a partner along the way.



Kara Trott is the Founder and Board Chair of Quantum Health, a consumer navigation and care coordination company. Retained by large employers as the front end of their medical benefits offering, Quantum Health provides an end-to-end guided experience for members in navigating their unchosen healthcare journey. Under her leadership, the company has consistently grown at a pace in excess of 30% per year and earned numerous awards, including being named a Fastest Growing Privately Held Company for the past 10 years by Inc. 5000, a Great Place to Work® and Best Workplaces in Health Care™ by Fortune magazine and Entrepreneur magazine, and a Columbus Business First Best Place to Work for more than 11 consecutive years.

Prior to founding Quantum Health, Kara was a corporate attorney with the law firm Bricker & Eckler and, preceding her legal practice, a strategic marketing consultant and project manager at RPA Worldwide, an international consulting firm. Kara earned a J.D. with honors from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and a B.A., cum laude, in politics and philosophy from Ohio Wesleyan University. In 2021, Kara transitioned from CEO to bring in the next generation of leadership and focus on her roles as Founder and Board Chair.

Kara has been honored with numerous awards over the course of her career. She was named Healthcare Executive of the Year by Columbus CEO, listed in Smart Business Magazine's Smart 50, and recognized among the 50 Fastest Growing Women-Owned/Led Companies for the past twelve years through the Women Presidents' Organization. Kara was also an Ernst & Young Regional Entrepreneur of the Year, winner of the Mary Lehman MacLachlan Economic Empowerment Award (WPO), and winner of the C200 Luminary Entrepreneurship Award – as well as recipient of the KeyBank Key4Women Achievement Award and Small Business Association Women-Owned Business Award for Region 6.

In addition to fulfilling her leadership roles at Quantum Health, Kara is a member of the Committee of 200 (C200), the Women Presidents' Organization, the International Women's Forum and the American Red Cross Tiffany Circle Society. Kara also serves on numerous boards, including the Foundation Board of The Ohio State University; the National Council for The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law, where she also co-chairs the Campaign Committee; Chair of the Governing Board of Make-A-Wish (Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana); Vice Chair of the Ohio Wesleyan University Board of Trustees and Executive Committee; and a member of the Executive Committee of the Columbus Partnership, a CEO-led economic and community development organization comprised of the largest companies in Central Ohio for the purpose of driving prosperity of the region. She also leads her family's foundation, Life Leap, along with her son and her husband.

Kara is married and has one son and two stepchildren. She and her husband split their time between their homes in Columbus, Ohio, and Charleston, South Carolina.

Ohio Senate Advice and Consent

Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Name: Kara Trott

Institution Being Appointed to:
The Ohio State University

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

Me: Yes, The Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University.
Dependents: No

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?

The First Amendment is a core of our Constitution. Everyone has a right to hold and express their opinions. In an academic setting, I believe the focus should be on academics and using conversations to advance critical thinking skills, which is one of the most important skills for life and career advancement. In this vein, I believe students should be taught how to think critically, not what to think. In addition, I believe the college experience should build skills in civil discourse so students learn how to create a safe environment for the exercise of free speech, develop respect and curiosity for all points of view, and are able to engage in conversations that enable understanding of different points of view. Diversity of thought is a core tenant of critical thinking and good civil discourse.

3. In your opinion, what are three current significant issues affecting higher education?
 - 1) The "enrollment cliff" – beginning in 2025 the pool of college-eligible students is declining due to lower birth rates in the US (estimated to be 15% fewer). Colleges in Ohio could feel this more acutely as not only do we have a decline in the number of people in the college-eligible demographic segment, but the geographic distribution of that demographic has shifted away from the Midwest and more toward southern states.
 - 2) More students attending college are first generation students who require extra support to have success during their first year and persist into their second year.
 - 3) The value of higher ed is being questioned as the cost of education continues to increase.
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

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

Overall cost can be impacted by 1) efficiencies within the institution so that the cost of operating is better (I believe OSU is already embarking on efficiency initiatives), 2) creative approaches to funding students by partnering with other organizations and businesses, and 3) philanthropic support for scholarship and endowment, such as the Scarlett and Gray Initiative that was implemented in 2022 and to which I have made a commitment. I am familiar with these kinds of strategies and would challenge leadership to be thinking about these and establishing goals.

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

I am very familiar with the process of granting faculty tenure, post-tenure review and annual performance reviews from my involvement in another higher ed institution. I understand the rationale for tenure promotion and the extensive and thorough 360 process that is employed in considering a candidate for tenure. While tenure ensures freedom in the pursuit of knowledge and understanding, there is still accountability for the teaching mission, such as meeting learning objectives in the classroom and ensuring the courses of study and majors are achieving enrollment objectives, in addition to other accountabilities with respect to conduct, etc. Tenured professors remain bound by the terms of the Faculty Handbook and are subject to oversight and decisions by a faculty governance body. Post-tenure review and annual faculty performance review should reinforce these accountabilities.

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

A critical part of getting graduation rates up is to ensure persistence from freshman to sophomore years. My observation is that increasing persistence in these years is a factor of academic support, social support/engagement and eliminating economic barriers (often these are small) that can cause a student not to continue. I would look to learn the root causes of persistence challenges and ensure leadership has a plan to address these based on an informed understanding of the student body. Maintaining these strategies throughout the entire college experience will improve graduation rates overall.

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?

We are in the fortunate position of being in a region that is experiencing high growth due to more businesses locating in central Ohio. I believe there is a commitment to address the workforce needs by first understanding the needs that employers have and factoring that into academics and internship experiences. Additionally, because we are very imprecise about our ability to know the jobs of the future, a strong focus across the institution on helping students develop critical thinking skills, leadership skills and getting real life applicable experiences can position us to not just provide today's workforce but enable students to have life-long opportunities in Ohio.

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?

Taxpayers of Ohio

Please complete and return this form to the Governor's Office of Boards and Commissions at boards.commissions@governor.ohio.gov. If you have any questions regarding this form please contact:

Senator Jerry C. Cirino

614-466-7718

1 Capitol Square

Columbus, OH 43215

GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Appointment Date: 11/8/2024

Name of Appointee: Kara J. Trott

Address: 300 W. Spring St
Columbus, OH 43215
Unit 1904
Franklin County
(H):
(W): 8002572038
(M): 6143414511
(E): kara.trott@quantum-health.com

Name of Commission: The Ohio State University Board of Trustees
Jessica Eveland, Secretary
(614) 292-1132
Brandon Lester, Associate Secretary
(614) 688-2314
210 Bricker Hall, 190 N. Oval Mall
Columbus, OH 43210
(P): (614) 292-1132
(E): eveland.9@osu.edu; lester.173@osu.edu

Term Begins: 5/14/2024
Term Ends: 5/13/2033
Party Affiliation: Republican
Senate Confirmation: Appointed by the Governor, confirmed by the Senate
Financial Disclosure: Confidential disclosure required
Vice: Hiroyuki Fajita