

STATE OF OHIO

Executive Department

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Columbus

I, Mike DeWine, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby appoint Diane M. Downing from Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, as a Member of the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees for a term beginning November 8, 2024 and ending at the close of business May 1, 2033, replacing Lisa Kunkle, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike DeWine".

Mike DeWine
Governor

Diane M. Downing

Office: 1422 Euclid Avenue, Suite 426, Cleveland, OH 44114

Phone: (440) 773-7649

Email: ddowning@SayYesCleveland.org

Education

Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York	1973 – 1977
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, 1977	
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, Massachusetts	Summer 1993
Senior Government Executive Program	
Stanford University, Graduate School of Business, Stanford, California	Summer 2003
Executive Program for the National Football League	

Professional Experience

Say Yes To Education, Cleveland, Ohio **February 11, 2019 – Present**

Say Yes Cleveland, Executive Director. Senior executive for development of Cleveland's initial and continuing participation in the Say Yes To Education program: working to establish, in conjunction with Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the holistic supports to enable students to attain "last dollar" college tuition scholarships, including selection and supervision of over one hundred professional family support specialists; and coordinating the cross-government and cross-sector partnerships to both maximize the initial investment from the now-disbanded national organization and to enable a sustainable fiscal model for the program in Cleveland over the next twenty-five years. Scholarship funds of over \$100m have been raised by the community.

Huntington Bank, Cleveland, Ohio **November 2010 – February 10, 2019**

Senior Vice President, Regional Manager of Corporate Affairs. Responsible for developing strategies to expand the bank's community involvement, position the bank in the community through corporate donations and sponsorship, and serve as the regional marketing manager. Reported directly to the President of Huntington's Greater Cleveland region. Served May 2015 to August 2016 as loaned executive to Cleveland 2016 Host Committee for the Republican National Convention.

Cleveland 2016 Host Committee, Cleveland, Ohio **May 2015 – August 2016**

Chief Operating Officer. Responsible for managing operations, coordinating the assembly of resources, and assisting in governmental and community outreach for this non-profit community organization charged with aiding the Republican National Committee in bringing the 2016 Republican Convention to Cleveland and making it succeed.

Office of Senator George V. Voinovich, Cleveland, Ohio **November 2008 – November 2010**

District Director. Responsible for Cuyahoga, Lake, Lorain, and Geauga counties; served as business, government, and community organization liaison within the region; communicated federal priorities and issues in the region to and from Senate staff.

Cleveland Browns Football, Cleveland, Ohio **April 2000 – July 2008**

Vice President, March 2005 to July 2008. Senior executive staff member responsible for Berea headquarters facility and government affairs.

Director of Stadium Operations, April 2000 to March 2005. Supervised NFL football stadium operations at 73,200 seat facility, including on-going construction, facility maintenance, game day operations, vendor and catering services, guest services, and special events.

Office of Mayor Michael R. White, City of Cleveland, Ohio **March 1996 – April 2000**

Senior Executive Assistant, October 1999 to April 2000. After successful start of New Cleveland Browns football season, returned to Mayor's management team for special projects, and Cleveland social services sector interface, while supervising close-out of stadium construction contracts.

Project Manager, New Cleveland Browns Stadium, March 1996 to October 1999. Managed the \$300 million municipal stadium construction project, including demolition of the former stadium, selection of design and construction professionals, and implementation of National Football League agreements.

Ohio Lottery Commission, State of Ohio, Cleveland, Ohio

February 1995—March 1996

Assistant Executive Director. Second in command with more than \$2 billion in sales per annum; supervised contract compliance for \$65 million in contracts; served as Acting Deputy Director of Operations.

Office of Mayor Michael R. White, City of Cleveland, Ohio

January 1990—February 1995

Executive Assistant for Service. Member of Mayor's Cabinet and Management Team; Oversight for Departments of Public Service; Parks, Recreation, and Properties; Health; and Aging; including 14 Commissioners, more than 1,630 employees, and budgets of \$125 million; Mayor's Representative to Cleveland Bicentennial Commission 1991-94; Member, Consultant Review Committee, advising on non-bid professional services contracts for architectural, engineering, and financial/accounting services.

Office of Mayor George V. Voinovich, City of Cleveland, Ohio

March 1980—December 1989

Executive Assistant, January 1985 to January 1990. Member of Mayor's Cabinet and Management Team; Oversight of immediate personal staff to and scheduling of Mayor; Member, Consultant Review Committee.

Deputy Director, Department of Community Development, January 1980 to January 1985. Deputy line responsibility for \$40 million Community Block Grant and the Divisions of Redevelopment, Building & Housing, Neighborhood Revitalization, & Rehabilitation; Legislative and budget testimony before Cleveland City Council.

Cuyahoga County Board of Commissioners, Cleveland, Ohio

July 1977—December 1979

Administrative Assistant to County Commissioner Seth Taft.

Civic Leadership Experience

Vassar College, Board of Trustees – May 2008 to May 2012;
Cleveland State University Foundation Board, Member – 2011 to 2019; Executive Committee 2014 -2019;
Laurel School, Board of Trustees – September 2012 to 2021;
College Now, Board of Directors – 2011 to 2018;
Cleveland Transformation Alliance - Appointed 2018;
Benjamin Rose Board of Trustees – 2018 – Present;
Karamu House, Board of Trustees – 2018 to Present;
Centers for Families and Children, Board of Directors – 2013 to 2019;
City of Cleveland Civil Service Commission – 2005–2008;
Cleveland-Cuyahoga County Port Authority, Board of Directors – December 2011 to 2016, Vice-Chair 2015-16;
Cleveland City Planning Commission, Member – Appointed May, 2018 to August, 2023;
Cleveland-Cuyahoga Convention Center Board – 2015 to 2020;
The Bruening Foundation, Distribution Committee – 2014 to 2023;
Gordon Square Arts District LLC, Board of Directors – 2011 to 2020; Vice-Chair 2015;
Beech Brook, Board of Directors – 2012 to 2019; Vice-president 2016 to 2019;
Girl Scouts of Northeast Ohio – Board Member 2015 to 2019;
Go Red for Women, American Heart Association – Co-Chair 2018
In Counsel with Women – Member since 2008;
The 50 Club of Cleveland – Member since September 2013;

Awards

Crain's Cleveland Business Woman of Note, 2012; YWCA Greater Cleveland Woman of Achievement, 2012; Sales and Marketing Executives of Cleveland Award, 2013; Girl Scouts of NE Ohio Woman of Distinction, 2014; Business Honoree, 2015 Golden Achievement Awards, Rose Centers for Aging Well; Smart Business Magazine Non-Profit Executive of the Year 2021.

Ohio Senate Advice and Consent

Trustee Appointment Questionnaire

Diane Downing

Name: _____

Institution Being Appointed to:
Cleveland 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?
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?

First Amendment rights should be strongly protected, especially on the campuses of our universities. This is not inherently in conflict with the promotion of diversity of thought, and in fact these rights should affirm and celebrate diversity of thought. Nevertheless, respect for the views of others requires the space and opportunity for sharing diverse points of view. Obstruction, disruption, and censorship wrongfully preclude and interfere with these rights and should be prohibited.

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

1. The preservation of studies of humanities and liberal arts while also enabling career and employment links from higher education to the workplace.
2. The cost of higher education to the students seeking it.
3. Developing more opportunities for the underrepresented to participate in higher education in order to fill the job openings in the region.

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 think it's important as we confront challenges at the university and with the workforce that we think "outside the box" for the benefit of the students in our region.

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

By providing different paths to a degree through virtual classes, integrated degrees and certification programs. This will allow student flexibility while reducing the cost of higher education. I am still developing an understanding of other possibilities for cost reduction.


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

I know there are labor agreements that determine many of the procedures for tenure and post-tenure faculty performance, but none of those should preclude transparency to the students and the community about course content, syllabi, and student evaluations of teacher performance.

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

Constant, consistent counseling and guidance are critical to increasing graduation rates. We need to review the methods and metrics about what is effective in assisting student performance to degree completion.

On-campus mentoring programs are especially important for first generation students. This is evident in the success rate of those students in the Living, Learning Community Dorm at CSU.

Finally, flexible program offerings such as virtual classes and integrated degrees will be important tools to increasing graduation rates at CSU. 

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?

I believe Cleveland area employers and businesses have a good understanding about workforce development. CSU can better address these needs by connecting graduates with local alums who have job openings, targeting student majors to address workforce needs and using our unique "campus in the city" to connect students to internships during their undergraduate years that can lead to full-time employment upon graduation. Deeper collaboration with the business community is important for our economy and our students.

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?

The ultimate responsibility is to the students and the taxpayers of Ohio. It's important that Board members work collaboratively with fellow board members, the administration of the university and our state elected officials to insure that we're living up to this responsibility.

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: Diane M. Downing

Address: 11302 Lake Ave
Cleveland, OH 44102
Cuyahoga County
(H): 2166316574
(W): 4407737649
(M): 4407737649
(E): dianedowning77@gmail.com

Name of Commission: Cleveland State University Board of Trustees
Heather Link, Assistant Board Secretary and Public Records Officer
C: (215) 533-2172
Sonali Wilson, Vice President of Legal Affairs & Compliance, General Counsel, and Board Secretary
P: (216) 687-3543
Board of Trustees Office, Cleveland State University, Wolstein Center, Rm 406
Cleveland, OH 44115
(P):
(E): heather.link@csuohio.edu; s.b.wilson@csuohio.edu

Term Begins: 5/2/2024

Term Ends: 5/1/2033

Party Affiliation: Independent

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

Financial Disclosure: Confidential disclosure required

Vice: Lisa Kunkle

