



## Patricia Ann Essex

Inducted May 23, 2021

|                                  |       |      |
|----------------------------------|-------|------|
| Auglaize-Brown Local High School |       | 1966 |
| Bowling Green State University   | B.S.  | 1975 |
| Bowling Green State University   | M.A   | 1987 |
| Michigan State University        | Ph.D. | 1993 |



In 1966, Dr. Patricia Essex graduated from Auglaize-Brown Local High School, now a part of the Paulding Exempted Village Schools. Her education from grades 1 to 12 took place in one building in the village of Oakwood. She believes that such a small school provided her with numerous advantages.

Dr. Essex's later education could provide some lessons pertinent to others: It took her nine years to complete her undergraduate degree, proof that temporarily dropping out of school might not spell disaster. After teaching high school for a few years, she returned to student life at the age of 32 to earn a Master of Accountancy degree. Then, Dr. Essex taught as a non-tenured college instructor before embarking on full-time study again (at the age of 40) to earn a Ph.D. in Business from Michigan State. She says that a person is never too old to learn new things. While at MSU, she was fortunate enough to win grants for underrepresented people (women) in that field.

Dr. Essex's career began as a vocational high school teacher in Fremont. It was perhaps her most fulfilling position because she could contribute directly to the success of at-risk students.

Dr. Essex was a college educator in accounting and information systems management for most of her professional life. Relatedly, she was both a Certified Public Accountant and Certified Information Systems Auditor. She taught undergraduate and graduate classes for about 25 years, primarily at Bowling Green State University. Much of that time, Dr. Essex was the only tenured woman in her department. In 2007, she retired from the tenured faculty of BGSU, where she had been named the Ernst and Young Endowed Professor in 2004. A favorite memory from those years is carrying the BGSU Mace as the Grand Marshall for the 2007 graduation procession.

Since then, Dr. Essex has changed focus to a field of study that was lacking in her education: women's history. This interest arose from artifacts that were discovered at the Oakwood home of her grandmother, Doris Maddock: quilts, aprons, and cotton bags--some from the 1800s--and even a suffrage banner. She researches and occasionally lectures on related historical topics. Dr. Essex asserts that her retirement continues her earlier life because good tools are useful in many environments. Her current interests are supported by active participation in the American Quilt Study Group, where she is on the Finance Committee, the Midwest Fabric Study Group, and the Carolina Textile Study Group, which she initiated in 2018.

After 50 years in Bowling Green, Dr. Essex and husband, Dr. Mark Asman, moved to Pittsboro, North Carolina. She has two "amazing" daughters nearby and two grandchildren, who she believes "hold much promise."