



Delaware City Schools

Distinguished Alumni
Hall of Fame

September 18, 2026



Keith Pomeroy
Superintendent of Schools

Thank you for joining us to celebrate the accomplishments of four outstanding individuals who are being inducted into the Delaware City Schools Hall of Fame. This joint event recognizes our alumni and friends of the district who have excelled in career achievement, athletics and the performing and visual arts.

Our students will have the opportunity to learn about our inductees over the next week. It is my hope that they will be similarly motivated to achieve in their respective fields of interest and will one day join this illustrious group. Please join me in thanking our inductees for making us so proud and for pointing our graduates toward excellence!

Ceremony Agenda

Rutherford B. Hayes High School Auditorium

Prelude Music

Hayes String Quartet

Welcome

Jake Shafer

Principal, Hayes High School

Presentation of the Colors

AFJROTC

Singing of the

Hayes Singers

National Anthem & Alma Mater

Remarks

Keith Pomeroy

Superintendent of Schools

Presentation of Awards

Timothy C. James

Dwayne Steward

Rex Welker

Dr. Heather E. (Bosse) Williams

Recognition of Former

Jake Shafer

Inductees & Closing

Guests are invited to attend the football game for an on-field introduction of the honorees.

Timothy C. James

Class of 1973

Timothy C. James was a lifelong leader, dedicated community servant, accomplished attorney, and proud graduate of Hayes High School. During his high school years, Tim distinguished himself through both leadership and service. He served on Student Council all four years, including as Junior Class President and Senior Year Student Body President. He was also deeply involved in Key Club, an organization connected to Kiwanis, where he participated in community service projects supporting those in need.

A gifted athlete, Tim competed in cross country and track throughout high school. He was a Varsity Club member for four years and helped lead the cross-country team to District Runner-Up honors. His specialty in track was the one-and two-mile races, reflecting the determination and perseverance that would become hallmarks of his life.

After graduating from Hayes in 1973, Tim attended Miami University, earning a degree in history and political science. He continued his education at The Ohio State University, graduating from law school in 1981. He began his legal career in Toledo, initially working for the Maumee Prosecuting Attorney's Office before joining Ritter, Robinson & McCready. Under his leadership, the small insurance defense practice grew into one of the largest insurance defense firms in the Toledo area, eventually expanding throughout the Midwest. Tim became a respected leader in insurance defense litigation.

One of the proudest achievements of Tim's legal career came when he successfully argued a case before the Ohio Supreme Court, the culmination of a lifelong professional goal. He was especially proud to share that experience with students from his hometown of Delaware, explaining the significance of the case and the judicial process.

Tim remained deeply committed to serving others throughout his life. He coached boys' and girls' youth soccer, supported community service initiatives, helped those in need, and contributed generously to his church and communities throughout the Toledo area. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, mentor, and friend whose impact extended far beyond his professional accomplishments.

Tim passed away on February 2, 2019, leaving behind a legacy of leadership, perseverance, service, and an enduring commitment to helping others.

Dwayne Steward

Class of 2003

Dwayne A. Steward, MPA, is an award-winning writer, speaker, public health leader, and advocate committed to expanding access, strengthening organizations, and creating opportunity for underserved and marginalized communities.

A 2003 graduate of Rutherford B. Hayes High School, Dwayne serves as CEO and Executive Director of Equality Ohio and the Equality Ohio Education Fund. He leads statewide advocacy, legal and policy, education, coalition-building, and community engagement efforts while overseeing a team of 15 professionals and \$2 million in 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) operations.

Previously, Dwayne served as Director of Inclusive Excellence, Accessibility & Belonging at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, helping advance health equity across a system serving 27,000 employees and 1.7 million patients. As Chief People, Culture and Programs Officer at Equitas Health, he oversaw multiple departments and more than \$40 million in budgets. Earlier roles at Fenway Health and Columbus Public Health included developing LGBTQ+ health equity, safety, and inclusion initiatives.

Dwayne is founder and CEO of Make It Better Consulting, providing organizational development, strategic planning, grants management, and diversity, equity, and inclusion consulting to nonprofits and small businesses.

An award-winning journalist, Dwayne's work has appeared in the Boston Herald, Columbus Monthly, The Buckeye Flame, and PRIZM Magazine. He has received honors from the Press Club of Cleveland and the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists and has shared his expertise through speaking engagements, media appearances, published commentary, and his TEDx talk, "How to Disrupt the Nonprofit Industrial Complex."

Known for his mentorship, integrity, empathy, and commitment to social justice and equal rights, Dwayne earned degrees from Ohio University and Franklin University. His honors include de Beaumont Foundation's 40 Under 40 in Public Health, Columbus Business First's 40 Under 40, and CIO Views' 10 Most Influential HR Executives of the Year. He is also a Victory Institute Empowerment Fellow, Columbus African American Leadership Academy Fellow, National Association of Community Health Centers C-Suite Leadership Institute Fellow, and Chips Quinn Scholar.

Rex Welker

Class of 1975

Rex Welker, Delaware Hayes Class of 1975, has spent a lifetime behind the camera and in service to the Delaware community. Rex began his career at Hayes as a photographer for the Talisman and DelHi while also working part-time for the Delaware Gazette. During his senior year, he served as commander of the AFJROTC.

After graduating, Rex attended the Ohio Institute of Photography, earning his degree in 1977. He began working for Marion Power Shovel during his final quarter of school and, after graduation, became the Delaware Gazette's first full-time photographer, beginning an 18-year career. While at the Gazette, he founded Welker Photography, which he operated until retiring in 2020.

Rex's connection to Delaware Hayes has remained strong throughout the decades. Through Welker Photography, he has photographed generations of Hayes athletes, teams, and bands. He has worked tirelessly around practices, competitions, schedules, and even uniform deliveries to ensure teams have a positive experience and receive their photographs in a timely manner. Beyond photography, Rex has helped organize the Wall of Champions and updated sports banners, preserving and celebrating the accomplishments of generations of Pacer students.

His commitment to Delaware extends well beyond Hayes. Rex is a Director of the Little Brown Jug Society and judges 4-H photography projects at the Delaware County Fair. He is a Past President of the Delaware Rotary Club and Delaware Rotary Foundation, an Elder and Past President of the Board of Trustees of First Presbyterian Church, and a Past President and member of the Volunteer Hall of Fame of the Delaware County Historical Society. He has also served as President of the Delaware B.P.O.E. Lodge, Treasurer of the Smith School PTO, volunteered with Habitat for Humanity, and spent more than 30 years volunteering in the Delaware County Fair Ticket Office.

Rex has received the United Way Award for Dedicated Community Service, Friends of 4-H Award, Rotary Community Service Award, and several UPI photography awards.

Rex and his wife of 48 years, Diane, have two children, Christopher, Hayes Class of 2007, and Caroline, Hayes Class of 2011, and three grandchildren. His family has a five-generation legacy in Delaware City Schools, making his lifelong service to the community especially meaningful.

Dr. Heather E. (Bosse) Williams

Class of 2002

Heather E. Williams is a proud Rutherford B. Hayes High School alumna whose career has been defined by a commitment to advancing patient care through science, innovation, education, and service.

Today, Heather is an internationally recognized leader in clinical genomics, laboratory medicine, and precision healthcare. For more than two decades, she has held leadership positions with respected healthcare organizations, academic medical centers, and biotechnology companies in the United States and United Kingdom, including The Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center, Mayo Clinic, King's College Hospital in London, Tempus AI, Flagship Pioneering's Harbinger Health, and Cache DNA.

Heather currently serves as Co-Founder and Principal Consultant Medical Director of GeneBetween, advising healthcare and life sciences organizations on clinical genomics, laboratory operations, quality systems, regulatory compliance, and precision medicine strategy. Her work helps expand access to appropriate genomic testing and translate scientific advances into high-quality patient care.

A lifelong learner, Heather earned degrees from The Ohio State University, the University of Saint Joseph, and Nova Southeastern University, along with advanced training in cytogenetics, clinical laboratory genetics and genomics, and healthcare leadership from institutions including the Universities of Paris-Descartes and Montpellier School of Medicine, Columbia University Medical Center, and the Yale School of Management.

Education and mentorship remain central to Heather's work. She serves as an Adjunct Faculty Member at the University of Connecticut and a longtime guest lecturer at Columbia University. She has mentored scientists, laboratory professionals, physicians, and students and regularly speaks at national and international conferences.

Heather has authored numerous peer-reviewed publications, contributed to clinical guidelines, and serves in leadership and advisory roles with organizations including the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics, the Association for Molecular Pathology, ClinGen, and the European Board of Medical Genetics. Her accomplishments include recognition as one of the American Society for Clinical Pathology's "40 Under Forty" and the Women Who Code Inspiring Innovation Award.

Despite a career that has taken her around the world, Heather remains proud of her Delaware roots and the foundation she received at Hayes. She participated in marching band, concert band, and JROTC and, in 2002, received the Daughters of the American Revolution JROTC Bronze Medal for outstanding leadership, character, military achievement, and scholastic excellence.

Heather lives in Minneapolis with her husband, J.T., and their two cats, Atlas and Arlo. Their daughters, Mikayla and Gwendolyn, are both pursuing PhDs.

Hall of Fame Inductees

2013 - Combined Hall of Fame

Richard J. Blakeslee - Class of 1970
John C. "Jack" Hilborn - Class of 1967
Christian Howes - Class of 1989
Dan Morrison - Coach
Will Morrison - Class of 2003
Herbert H. "Bill" Williams - Class of 1954

2014 - Combined Hall of Fame

Brent Carson - Class of 1966
Clifford Dochterman - Class of 1943
Larry Eberst - Class of 1973
Charles "Tony" McCleery - Class of 1945
Abigail Nims - Class of 1997
Joseph DiGenova - Friend of the District

2015 - Combined Hall of Fame

Noah Cowan - Class of 1990
John Edwin Dewey - Class of 1957
Timothy Flahive - Class of 1975
Linda Lukas - Class of 1974
Bill Rietz - Class of 1976
James D. Schlichting - Class of 1971

2016 - Combined Hall of Fame

David Hackel - Class of 1967
Warren Wilson Hyer - Class of 1972
Vincente Minnelli - Class of 1921
Frank Lee Ruggles - Class of 1985
Deborah Poling-Schooley - Class of 1975
Richard "Dick" Shively - Class of 1954

2017 - Combined Hall of Fame

Jacob C. Edwards - Class of 2007
Paul L. Gaus - Class of 1967
Terry Johnson - Class of 1952
Stephen M. Reed - Class of 1966
Ezra F. Vogel - Class of 1947

2018 - Combined Hall of Fame

Carrie Banks - Class of 1996
Douglas Baxter - Class of 1968
Richard Andrus Hagar - Class of 1954
Jeannee Parker Martin - Class of 1973
April Nelson - Class of 1974
René Landon Weber - Class of 1974
Distinguished Service

2019 - Combined Hall of Fame

E. Fred Carlisle - Class of 1952
Emily Chenoweth - Class of 1990
Leonard "Mike" Clark - Class of 1953
Donald Keebaugh - Class of 1950
Barry King - Class of 1963
Kevin L. Reed - Distinguished Service

2021 - Combined Hall of Fame

Susan Hurd Barr - Class of 1982
Alice M. Batchelder - Class of 1961
Ashleigh Nicole Nordstrom Brown - Class of 2006
Janelle Thompson Gasaway - Class of 2001
Richard Hubbard - Class of 1955

2022 - Combined Hall of Fame

Kay Grandstaff Conklin - Class of 1954
John Ditslear - Class of 1960
Paul E. Lyons - Class of 1982
Jim Mendenhall - Class of 1969
Frederick "Rick" Scarry - Class of 1960

2023 - Combined Hall of Fame

Ceena Dinovo Baker - Class of 1971
Shawn M. Flahive - Class of 1977
Jeffrey J. Richards - Class of 1973
Dr. Joseph Rieman - Class of 2000
Jim Shaheen - Class of 1985
Peter M. Strimer - Class of 1972

2025 - Combined Hall of Fame

Scott Hemans-Class of 1975 (Dist. Service)
Emily Richards - Class of 2014
Teri L. Riggs - Class of 1969
Steve Tilson - Class of 1967
Andy Warnock - Class of 2002
Diane Winters - Class of 1966

Distinguished Alumni Hall of Honor

2007- Inaugural Class

William Hastings Eels – Class of 1942
Esther Jo King – Class of 1977
F. Sherwood Rowland – Class of 1943
John Michael “Mick” Seidl – Class of 1957
Henry Clay Thomson II – Class of 1926
James Tull – Class of 1980

2008

Jeffrey T. Benton – Class of 1971
Christopher “C.D.” Davies – Class of 1983
Douglas H. Dittrick – Class of 1951
Richard E. Lee, Jr. – Class of 1969

2009

Lorraine Bahrnick – Class of 1971
Richard D. Gordin II – Class of 1969
Anthony M. Heald – Class of 1967

2010

Cheri Florance – Class of 1966
Douglas Gordin – Class of 1974
Tiffany Lefevre Lillie – Class of 1991
Nicholas Shaheen – Class of 1983

2011

David Fivecoat – Class of 1989
Chris Geesman – Class of 1957
Janet B. Hurst – Class of 1974
Walter D. “Tom” Thomson – Class of 1956

Athletic Hall of Fame

2000 – Inaugural Class

Jerry Cornell - Coach
Liana Coutts - Class of 1984
Roy Henderson - Coach
Julie Schupp Long - Class of 1981
Rick Middleton - Class of 1970
Robert Muirfield - Distinguished Service

2001

T.K. Cellar - Coach
Tiffany Feinberg - Class of 1984
Ray Middleton - Coach
Tom Reed - Class of 1963
Donald Shannon - Class of 1966
Jim Stimmel - Distinguished Service

2002

Gabe Banks - Class of 1991
Jay Coffman - Class of 1976
Jerry Fouts - Distinguished Service
Vance Herrell - Class of 1973
Sheila Martin - Class of 1983
Richard Snouffer - Administrator

2003

Jerome Bohanna - Class of 1972
Tony Heald - Class of 1967
Gary Henery - Distinguished Service
Carrie Houser - Class of 1986
Mike Kinnaird - Class of 1975
Tom Landsittel - Class of 1963

2004

Jim Burkhart - Class of 1962
Dr. Bob Kedar - Class of 1988
Gary Fivecoat - Coach
Joe Reed - Class of 1952
Dewey Warden, Jr. - Class of 1971
Dr. Tennyson Williams - Distinguished Service

Athletic Hall of Fame - Cont'd

2005

Jim Hoffman - Distinguished Service
Don Lockwood - Coach
Bill Middleton - Class of 1968
Frank Montgomery - Class of 1962
Marge Moses - Coach
Fred Terry - Class of 1955

2006

Frank Dalton - Coach
Travis Dalton - Class of 1989
Kris Leslie - Class of 1979
John Talley - Class of 1956
Ralph Young - Athletic Director
Terry Kramer - Distinguished Service

2007

Dave Echols - Coach
Jean-Marc Cowles O'Connor - Class of 1984
Stacey Reed - Class of 1989
Ed Starling - Coach
Len Visci - Coach
Tom Ackley - Distinguished Service
Al Wood - Distinguished Service

2008

Lou Carozza - Coach
John Dewey - Class of 1957
Jack McKinnie - Class of 1950
Richard Payne - Class of 1955
Lynne Powers Weber - Class of 1978
Tim Burchfield - Distinguished Service

2009

Steve Aller - Class of 1963
Wilbur Bills - Class of 1944
Roy Clark - Class of 1960
Clifton Davis - Class of 1950
Krista Jacobs - Class of 1988
Tony Rieman - Distinguished Service

2010

Andy Hull - Class of 1954
Mike Milligan - Class of 1982
Dan Mohr - Class of 1992
Larry Seidl - Class of 1953
Matt Weller - Class of 1986
Mike Stimmel - Distinguished Service

2011

Tom Arnold - Class of 1969
Mike Cornell - Class of 1973
Todd Goebbel - Class of 1994
Bill Williams - Class of 1954
Nancy Young - Distinguished Service

2012

Carthel Ransaw - Class of 1955
Jason Stofel - Class of 1989
Scott Yant - Class of 1981
Dana Minot - Distinguished Service

Performing Arts Wall of Fame

2004

Jay R. Smith - Class of 1970

2006

Eugene Raymond Ross - Band Director
1938-1971
Brad Schroeder - Class of 1970

2007

Amy Eckert - Orchestra Director 1971-
1997
Erika Eckert - Class of 1982