



Cleveland State Today

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OHIO COMMUNITY SERVICE COUNCIL HONORS OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Cleveland State student is one of only three to receive new state award for volunteer service.

Cleveland State University student **Evette Jackson Clark** joined First Lady of Ohio **Hope Taft** and Congresswoman **Marcy Kaptur** of Toledo as the first recipients of the **STAR Award** for outstanding volunteerism, awarded by The Ohio Community Service Council (OCSC), Ohio's state agency for community service and volunteerism.

The Ohio Community Service Council recognized the three at the annual Forging New Links statewide volunteer conference. The STAR Award is a new recognition program that will be presented annually to individuals or organizations whose efforts have made a lasting impact on volunteerism and service in the State of Ohio.

“There are many outstanding awards programs that honor the tremendous service and impact of volunteers in their local communities,” said Alan Penn, OCSC Chair. “The OCSC STAR Award is unique because it recognizes those whose efforts have strengthened, supported, or expanded volunteerism and service statewide.”

The 2006 Inaugural STAR Award recipients are:

Evette Jackson Clark, Cleveland

Ms. Clark is the Founder and Executive Director of The Phenomenal Foundation, Inc., a non-profit community outreach organization dedicated to Making a Difference. Recognizing the importance of giving back to community through service, the Phenomenal Foundation annually honors individuals throughout the state who are giving back to their communities. The web site is at www.phenomenalfoundation.org.

Since 1999, more than 100 statewide community leaders, volunteers, and grassroots organizers who give extraordinary efforts of time and service back to their communities have received this award.

Ms. Clark is completing her Master's degree in Education (Adult Learning and Development) at Cleveland State University and will graduate in May. She is also a Student Government Association Senator.

As a motivational speaker, Ms. Clark provides interactive, informational presentations at elementary schools, high schools, churches and special events. Motivating people is her passion. To that end, she developed and facilitates a self-development program called Phenomenal You. This program emphasizes the importance of self-esteem, self-respect, and self-love in all aspects of life, and promotes volunteerism and outreach as the basis for understanding that to receive, one must also give.

Previously, Ms. Clark worked with disadvantaged youth at the Cleveland Job Corps Center. In her role as Manager of Partnership Development, she served as the community liaison and program and job developer. She also has more than 10 years' experience in advertising and marketing. Prior to joining the Cleveland Job Corps Center, she was Director of Client Services at National Yellow Pages Marketing, Inc.

Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur, Toledo

Congresswoman Kaptur, who began her volunteer efforts at age 13, represents Northern Ohio's Ninth Congressional District, and is currently serving her 12th term in the U.S. House of Representatives. Representative Kaptur, who was recognized for her work with numerous organizations during her tenure in Congress, has long been a supporter and friend of AmeriCorps at both the national and local level. Locally, she and/or her staff have sworn in the AmeriCorps Serving Northwest Ohio members each of the last 10 years.

Representative Kaptur also participates regularly in service events such as Make A Difference Day Ohio, National Youth Service Day, and the MLK Day Celebration.

Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio

Hope Taft, First Lady of Ohio, was recognized for her leadership in encouraging and recognizing volunteer service throughout Ohio.

Since 2000, Mrs. Taft has partnered with the Ohio Community Service Council to promote Make A Difference Day Ohio, the largest day of volunteering at a statewide level. Since this time, Ohio has become a national leader in its participation each year. MDDO has ignited service, united entire communities and become part of the fabric of many organizations and communities throughout Ohio.

The First Lady's leadership has furthered service and volunteerism in the Buckeye State and throughout the country.

Nationally, Mrs. Taft serves on the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation. The mission of the Council is to encourage the recognition of outstanding volunteer service and civic participation by individuals, schools, and organizations and thereby encourage more such activity, especially on the part of America's youth; and facilitate awareness of the ways in which Americans throughout our history have helped to meet the vital needs of their communities and nation through volunteer service and civic participation.

About the Ohio Community Service Council

Members of the Ohio Community Service Council are appointed by Governor Bob Taft and represent state agencies, businesses, higher education, community agencies, labor, and youth. The Ohio Community Service Council, an office of Ohio government, was established in 1994 and given authority by the state legislature to hire a staff and to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (the largest of these is AmeriCorps).

The Council's mission is to strengthen Ohio's communities through service and volunteerism.

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