

**Name of nominee: Barbara D. Oilschlager**

**Criteria Responses**

**1. Has the trustee served as an officer of the college's board of trustees?**

During her years of service as a trustee at the College of Lake County, Barbara Oilschlager has provided leadership by serving as Chair and Vice Chair eight different times during a period of unprecedented growth; she was recently elected to a second term as Board Secretary. Her vision and ability to analyze complex higher educational issues have been invaluable in making CLC one of Illinois' premier community colleges. She also has served on numerous Board committees, including as Board liaison to the CLC Foundation. In 2019, Trustee Barb Oilschlager will have served the College of Lake County for 30 years.

**2. In addition to service on the board of trustees, in what capacity has the trustee participated in community life (i.e., civic clubs, public office, etc.)?**

Trustee Oilschlager has been an active member and has played a leadership/board role in numerous community organizations and clubs. She was instrumental in establishing the Grayslake Chapter of Rotary International. A charter member of the chapter, she served as Vice President and President, and she provided leadership and direction in awarding numerous scholarships to students and assisting needy families in the area.

She is the longest serving member of the Illinois Workforce Investment Board. This is a gubernatorial appointment, with Senate confirmation; the board's function is to advise the governor and legislature on developing state policy related to Illinois workforce development, as well as influencing the national and local workforce agenda. She has been appointed under four different Governors—Edgar, Ryan, Blagojevich and Quinn, which is a testament to her ability and effectiveness to work with both sides of the aisle.

She also is a past member of the Board of Directors of the Lake County Community Action Project, the Lake/McHenry County YWCA, the Chamber of Commerce, the Lake County Area Planning Council for Adult Education, and the Suburban Cook/Lake County System Directors Council.

**3. What has the trustee initiated and helped to develop in the area of innovative programs used in two-year postsecondary education?**

Trustee Oilschlager has played a key role in promoting international education. She was part of a team of U.S. State Department-sponsored national education leaders and community college presidents who conducted a conference in the Ukraine. The American Community College successes, impact and structure was communicated to Ukrainian governmental and educational leadership with the opportunity for replication.

She also participated in PIN (Postsecondary International Network) conferences in Australia and New Zealand and worked with their business partners to initiate long-distance learning opportunities, which resulted in teacher/student classroom interactions in CLC business programs and other exchanges among the countries. Additionally, as part of PIN, she promoted programs with an emphasis on green business entrepreneurship and green products and practices.

She contributed to efforts at CLC that led to the college receiving prestigious diversity and equity awards from ACCT, ICCTA and AACC in 2015 and 2016.

**4. How has the trustee served on technical or special committees serving two-year postsecondary education?**

Trustee Oilschlager has dedicated more than two decades of service during her professional career to promote career and technical education in Lake County and the State of Illinois through her service as Regional Vocational Delivery System Administrator for Lake County. In this capacity, she served on numerous committees to advocate for workforce development programs that ensure seamless educational transitions at all levels, including dual credit and tech prep programs. Her experience and success did not go unnoticed as she was appointed by the Governor to Co-Chair the Steering Committee of the Education to Careers initiative in Illinois, which resulted in the state receiving \$52 million in grant funds to advance career and technical education at all levels in Illinois.

She is also a past President of the Illinois Association for Career and Technical Education, a professional organization of approximately 1,500 members (at the time she was president), of teachers, counselors and administrators from all levels of education. Additionally, she served on the ICCB Career and Technical Education Challenge Task Force, and the IBHE Workforce Preparation Action Plan and Implementation Task Force. Participation on these committees ensured that the community college voice was always heard.

**5. How has the trustee been a factor in influencing legislation for two-year postsecondary institutions and how has the trustee been active in communicating with state and national legislators?**

Trustee Oilschlager has advocated for improving the funding formula for community colleges. She served on the ICCB's System-wide Funding Formula Task Force, which was instrumental in impacting legislative change. She was effective in the lobbying efforts to amend the Community College Ethics Legislation to clarify that community college districts are units of local government. Additionally, she has worked to protect MAP and Pell Grant funding for community college students, and she continues to advocate for local control.

Trustee Oilschlager is an active participant in state and national events and activities, addressing community college issues with state legislators and members of Congress. She participates in ICCTA's annual Lobby Day activities, ACCT's National Legislative Summit, and ACCT's Annual Leadership Congress. Her participation and involvement has resulted in new and increased funding for state and federal grants, capital projects, and the establishment of the University Center of Lake County. She is on a first name basis with Lake County legislators, and because of her professional background and experience in the areas of education and employment, her opinion and advice is often requested. Additionally, she has supported and worked for our local members of Congress, which has resulted in heightened awareness of community college students and their needs.

**6. What has the trustee contributed overall to the two-year postsecondary concept, and how did this affect the total college program in the community, state or nation?**

During her career as a vocational education administrator, Trustee Oilschlager has influenced education at all levels—elementary, secondary and postsecondary—and she has played a strong role in operations and policy-making. She provided leadership in the administration of 32 regional high school vocational system programs that transfer directly into CLC programs and offer opportunities for approximately 40,000 students at 18 high schools in Lake County to get a head start in college. She played a leadership role in implementing ACT's National Career Readiness Certificate for Lake County high school students, and professional development activities for teachers, counselors and administrators. Through her work with local and state organizations and other educational entities, she raised public awareness of the career and technical education profession and has inspired others to pursue career excellence. In recognition of her many contributions in support of career education, Ms. Oilschlager received the prestigious Illinois Carl Perkins Humanitarian Award, and was a nominee for the Association for Career and Technical Education's national Carl Perkins Award. She also received a Governor's Workforce Development Award for local partnership activities. In 2015, Trustee Oilschlager was the recipient of the Illinois Community College Trustees' Association Ray Hartstein Trustee Leadership Award for her outstanding leadership.

Additionally, Trustee Oilschlager was honored for her longtime service to education and her statewide advocacy work for the Illinois community college system. She was the recipient of the Excellence in Service to Education and Illinois Community Colleges.

**7. How has the trustee provided leadership in helping to solve challenges to two-year postsecondary education?**

Trustee Oilschlager was elected President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association in 2009 when state finances were catastrophic, and many community colleges struggled to

operate because of declining payments from the state. Trustee Oilschlager spearheaded an effort to help community colleges develop a short-term fiscal plan, and she continues to work in implementing long-term fiscal guidelines. In addition, she was instrumental in developing growth management strategies. Trustee Oilschlager has advocated and continues to seek support for legislation that helps students manage the cost of textbooks. This resulted in starting a pilot program at CLC that allows students to rent textbooks.

She also spearheaded the implementation of the CLC Foundation's Superintendents Scholarships. These scholarships are given to each of the 16 high school districts superintendents to award to a worthy students based on the individual Superintendent's established criteria. It is intended to enhance relationships with Lake County high schools and to promote CLC with our high school population.

Over the last few years, Trustee Oilschlager has participated in each of the ACCT-sponsored symposiums. In that capacity, she influenced, on a national level, the direction of community colleges in regard to student success, completion and other related topics.

**8. How has the trustee been active in developing, organizing, or supporting state two-year postsecondary associations and what kind of leadership role has the trustee played in state, regional or national associations?**

In addition to providing leadership as Board Chair at the College of Lake County, Trustee Oilschlager served as the 2009-2010 President of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, representing the state's 48 community colleges. In that capacity, she worked tirelessly with legislators to advocate for community colleges. In particular, she advocated to increase funding, addressed legislation impacting community colleges and worked to improve retention and recruitment rates. She also championed efforts to build awareness of community colleges' quality programs and the important role the institutions play in the Illinois economy.

During her presidency and as part of her accountability to the ICCTA membership, she implemented "What Have You Done For Me Lately," a documented list of activities led by Trustee Oilschlager and the ICCTA staff. She also spearheaded the "Letter to the Editor" campaign, which was replicated across the State of Illinois, promoting the quality of community college education and the need for increased funding. She traveled statewide, connecting with trustees, presidents and higher education leaders, advocating her strong belief that "Ordinary people, working together with common purpose, can achieve extraordinary results."

Trustee Oilschlager currently serves on ICCTA's Executive Committee and has been CLC's representative to the ICCTA's Board of Representative for many years. During those years, she has served as Chair of the North Suburban Region, and also Chair of the Government Relations Committee, Executive Committee, Finance Committee and Women in Leadership committees.

Additionally, she has participated on the Diversity, Public Relations, and Trustee Education committees, and has been involved with other ICCTA-sponsored professional development seminars and conferences.

At the national level, Trustee Oilschlager serves as your current ACCT State Coordinator, and has been an Associate Member of the ACCT Member Communications and Education Committee. She serves as appointed committee member of the Public Policy and Advocacy Committee, and she has served on the Governance and Bylaws Committee, as well as a member and Chair of the Central Regional Nominating Committee.

**9. What presentations has the trustee made or articles published on two-year postsecondary education?**

Trustee Oilschlager has presented at local, state and national conferences and training seminars throughout her years of service. Recently, her presentation proposal on the College's Fire Science Program was accepted for the CareerTech VISION conference, sponsored by the Association of Career and Technical Education (ACTE), which will be held in December 2018 in San Antonio.

In 2017, she presented "Bridging Educational Partnerships That Support Student Success and Achievement" at the ACTE CareerTech VISION conference in Nashville. In 2016, she presented "Complete Career Pathway – High School to Health Professions" at the ACCT Leadership Congress. In addition, Trustee Oilschlager has presented several other local, state and national conferences throughout her career as a community college trustee. Finally, Trustee Oilschlager has been instrumental in the College of Lake County receiving a record number and first-time state and national awards and recognitions such as the ACCT 2016 Charles E. Kennedy Equity Award, the ICCTA 2016 Equity and Diversity Award, and the AACC 2016 Genome Award.