



IAAS Walks of Life 2000
Sr Margaret Kelley, OSU

Sr. Margaret Kelley, OSU, joined the Ursuline Sisters following her graduation from Beaumont School for Girls in Cleveland Heights, then returned to that school in 1982 as assistant principal. She became principal in 1986 and president in 1991. In the meantime, she earned a bachelor's degree in education and master's in administration from St. John College.

She then taught in Cleveland diocesan elementary and secondary schools, and was principal of St. Philomena and St. Ann schools. At St. Philomena she instituted an administrative team that worked with a grant Ursuline College received under the National Defense Education Act. It encouraged minority parents to take an active role in their children's education and the team and parents worked together to facilitate the successful merger of St. Philomena and Christ the King schools in 1974. At St. Ann, a successful special reading program was established and again, parents were involved with upgrading and refurbishing the school. Under her leadership, at Beaumont School a Board of Trustees was developed, a declining enrollment was turned around and a critical financial situation was converted to a lifegiving endowment. Beaumont was recognized as a National School of Excellence and Sr. Margaret Ann was identified as the Outstanding Secondary Principal in the Diocese of Cleveland. During her tenure, a computer lab was created, an athletic field added to the complex, and scholarship monies were increased to allow attendance opportunities for deserving students.

All this was in keeping with her stated aim: "My goal has always been to make a difference in young people's lives."

A Board Member for Heights Community Congress, Sr. Margaret Ann has been a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the Principals' Association of the Diocese of Cleveland, the Ohio Catholic Education Association, and the National Catholic Education Association. Since her retirement from her Beaumont post in 1997, she has served as a pastoral minister at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist.

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