

Citizenship 101

By Roderick J. McDavis



To look at our university today, with six campuses and more than 28,000 students, I am sure our founders would find the Ohio University of the 21st century far exceeds their expectations.

Last year, we achieved new heights with an historic year.

Our students won 75 nationally competitive awards, a record for our university. More than 550 students participated in the largest-ever Student Research and Creative Activity Expo. We received some of the largest gifts from alumni and friends in our history. And our graduation rate performance indicator ranked third in the nation, according to *U.S. News & World Report*.

While these collective achievements are impressive, each student's individual success

story is also a testament to our university. Prospective employers, who understand the value of an Ohio University degree, seek out our students to join their companies and organizations. They want employees who possess strong leadership skills, a deep commitment to community and dedication to public service. These qualities are a hallmark of our great institution.

But what makes realizing them possible? It is the wonderful mentoring by our talented faculty and dedicated staff; the opportunities they offer students



Rick Fatica

Like junior Elizabeth Wolfe, each student at Ohio University makes a commitment to not only academic excellence but also citizenship. Wolfe's story appears on page 33.

to engage in research and creative activity; and their local and global commitment to service that help and inspire our students to fully realize their potential.

At the same time, our students make a promise to live and practice Ohio University's core values. Through a Vision Ohio initiative, vetted by our students, we have more formally introduced our first-year students to these values through various communication efforts this fall:

Community means becoming a responsible member of a diverse community and positive representative of Ohio's values.

Citizenship is expressed through contributions to the advancement of society, both now and for future generations.

Civility means being respectful of the rights, opinions and dignity of others.

Character is the exercising of personal integrity inside and outside the classroom.

Commitment means practicing one's beliefs and committing to Ohio's values of community, citizenship, civility and character.

These values represent the unique Bobcat spirit that lives within each one of us. They are, in fact, the defining qualities of an Ohio University graduate. In this issue of *Ohio Today*, we celebrate our university's continuing dedication to promoting all of these qualities, but focus our attention on the value of citizenship as expressed through political engagement and public service.

I invite you to reflect on the spark ignited by your Ohio University experience that allows your example to inspire others in your personal and professional communities. We are all carrying forward the legacy of our university and setting an example as public servants and citizens for the world to see.

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