

OCEF honors Dr. Turnage at annual education celebration

By Jeff Poole, Managing Editor (Reprinted with permission of Jeff Poole)

Published August 21, 2014 in the Orange County Review



Photo by Jeff Poole

Dr. Frank Turnage, Germanna Community College President Emeritus, was honored Sunday at the Orange County Education Foundation Celebration of Education at James Madison's Montpelier. Sponsorship and ticket sales from Sunday's event fund future OCEF scholarships and grants. Over the past seven, years, the foundation has awarded 104 scholarships totaling \$198,500, including 16 student scholarships totaling \$33,000 to recent OCHS graduates and more than 20 teacher innovation grants totaling \$7,250 throughout the county this spring. Above, OCEF President Bryan Hargett, left, congratulates Dr. Turnage as the third recipient of the lifetime contribution award.

Lauded for his passion for education and the Virginia Community College System and as a true southern gentleman, Dr. Frank Turnage, Germanna Community College President Emeritus, was honored Sunday at the Orange County Education Foundation Celebration of Education at James Madison's Montpelier.

Dr. Turnage became the foundation's third recipient of the lifetime contribution award, following Joe Rowe's award last year and Murcelle Coleman's recognition in 2012.

Dr. Turnage spent more than 20 years as Germanna's President and 39 years with the Virginia Community College System. In 2006, the Virginia General Assembly passed a resolution commending him for guiding Germanna "from a small, remote

community college to an influential educational force in the region providing workforce development and the opportunity of higher education to all of the residents of the community.”

At the celebration Sunday in Montpelier’s DuPont Gallery, Dr. Turnage told friends, family and foundation supporters he thoroughly loved his job and went to work genuinely happy each day.

“I never could have been honored by you if not for you and the students at Germanna,” he said, also acknowledging the support of community, business and local government leaders throughout the region.

“I’m very humbled by this award,” he added. “I had a mission at Germanna, I had been brought there and I wanted to do the best I could for the community.”

During his tenure, Dr. Turnage worked with local employers to help align Germanna programs to meet regional needs—particularly among the health care industry. He provided leadership stability to the school after an unsettled era and shepherded its expansion into Spotsylvania and Culpeper.

Current Germanna President Dr. David Sam said Dr. Turnage had a great reputation as not only a college president but also as a gracious southern gentleman.

“It’s much easier to follow a lousy president, but following a local legend was a challenge,” Dr. Sam said. “Once again, Dr. Turnage was very gracious and made the transition very easy. He didn’t just lay the foundation, but the first floor of a college that is meeting the needs of the community.”

While Sunday’s event honored Dr. Turnage, it also celebrated another successful year for the education foundation. Sponsorships and ticket sales from Sunday’s event fund future scholarships and grants. Over the past seven years, the foundation has awarded 104 scholarships totaling \$198,500, including 16 student scholarships totaling \$33,000 to recent OCHS graduates and more than 20 teacher innovation grants totaling \$7,250 throughout the county this spring.

“I continue to be inspired by the community’s rapidly growing support of students and teachers,” OCEF President Bryan Hargett said.

For more information, on the Orange County Education Foundation, visit www.ocadofoundationva.org.