



2016 ACL John B. Noftsinger Award for Service and Leadership

The Association for Collaborative Leadership bestows the John B. Noftsinger, Jr. Award for Service and Leadership upon an individual who has contributed significantly over the years to support and strengthen cooperation among institutions of higher education and between those institutions and their partners in the community and in the corporate and foundation worlds. In doing so, we recognize the many years of service the individual has devoted to the collaborative enterprise in order to help higher education be responsive, innovative, and caring.



Susan Palmer
Executive Director
The Five Colleges of Ohio, Inc.

Susan Palmer exemplifies the best in higher education. She was selected for the John B. Noftsinger Award because of her contributions in promoting collaborative relationships in higher education and her dedication to the work of the Association for Collaborative Leadership. Susan's expertise has been invaluable to the wellbeing of the organization and her guidance as a member of the Board of Directors and as Secretary has been outstanding and immense.

We wish her well in retirement; her advice and hard work will be sorely missed!

The ACL Board of Directors
October 2016
Amherst, Massachusetts

Susan Palmer is the Executive Director of The Five Colleges of Ohio, Inc., a consortium founded in 1995 to efficiently coordinate administrative and operating functions and develop collaborative academic programs for The College of Wooster, Denison University, Kenyon College, Oberlin College, and Ohio Wesleyan University. Through her 20-plus years of leadership, the consortium has received \$12,742,951 in grants for joint academic and administrative projects; most recently a \$2 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is to establish a postdoctoral fellowship program to support the teaching of foreign languages. From 1990 to 1999, Dr. Palmer served as the Carolinas and Ohio Science Education Network (COSEN) Executive Director. COSEN, a consortium of eight institutions, was funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts to improve science education. The member institutions were the five Ohio colleges plus Davidson College, Duke University, and Furman University. A science enrichment program primarily for those underrepresented in science and mathematics, COSEN was named A Program That Works by Project Kaleidoscope.

Dr. Palmer's educational background includes a B.S. in chemistry from Otterbein College, an M.A.T. from The Johns Hopkins University, and a Ph.D. in Educational Studies with concentrations in cognitive neuroscience and science education from The Ohio State University. She taught chemistry, biology, and physical science in the Baltimore City public high schools and chemistry and neurochemistry at Kenyon College. She also participated in the organizational process leading to the formation of the Kenyon Neuroscience Program in 1993. Since then, she has assisted with the capstone seminar "Current Research Topics in Neuroscience" and lectured in the Introduction to Neuroscience course on brain imaging techniques and the effects of hormones on brain activity.

Although her recent professional activities involve classroom and program research and assessment, consortial operations, and the educational uses of technology, Dr. Palmer remains committed to making improvements in science education at the undergraduate and K-12 levels and encouraging women and underrepresented minorities to enter science careers. She has served as a consultant to other colleges for their science programs and was on the Science Advisory Committee for the development of a model K-12 curriculum framework for the Ohio Department of Education. She is a long-standing member of Sigma Xi, a participant in the Ohio Project (a state-wide initiative to improve undergraduate science education) and a member of the Board of Directors of ACL.

Previous ACL Award Recipients:

- 2003 Charlie Bedford, University Center in Georgia
- 2003 Mary K. Ellis, the New Orleans Consortium
- 2003 Fritz Grupe, Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley
- 2003 Richard (Dick) Konkel, Southeast Florida Education Consortium
- 2003 Stan Love, the Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education,
- 2003 Hank Munroe, the New Hampshire College and University Council
- 2003 Lewis Patterson, Council for Institutional Leadership and Kansas City Regional Council
- 2003 Jackie Pritzen, Five Colleges, Incorporated
- 2003 Larry Rose, Kansas City Regional Council for Higher Education
- 2003 Dean Tollefson, Union of Independent Colleges of Art
- 2003 Neil Wylie, Council of Presidents of New England Land-Grant Universities
- 2005 Allan Watson, Alliance for Higher Education
- 2006 Rosalie M. Gates, Cooperating Raleigh Colleges
- 2007 Alice Brown, Appalachian Colleges Association
- 2009 Lorna Peterson, Five Colleges, Incorporated
- 2011 John B. Nofstinger, Jr., James Madison University, Virginia
- 2012 Lawrence G. Dotolo, Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education
- Nicola Vocola Beltz, Virginia Tidewater Consortium for Higher Education
- 2013 Wayne Anderson, Associated Colleges of the South