

## Ohio Transfer Council Service/Merit Awards

Each year, the OTC selects three transfer professionals to receive the OTC service/merit awards. These awards are presented at the annual OTC conference in June. Selected recipients are transfer professionals who have provided exceptional service in the transfer profession.

This year, nominations are due by **March 1, 2010** and should be submitted to Linda Arnest, OTC President-Elect at [Linda.Arnest@UC.EDU](mailto:Linda.Arnest@UC.EDU). Questions can be submitted to Linda at this e-address or by calling 513/556-0811.

To nominate a candidate, please send the following information:

- Your name/title/contact information
- Name/title/institution of the nominee and the name of the award
- Narrative description of your nominee's characteristics and achievements that make them a good fit for an OTC award.

### The OTC Service/Merit Awards

The **Jonathan Tafel Award** is the highest honor the Ohio Transfer Council can bestow upon an individual. The criteria used to select a recipient are service and dedication to OTC, contributions to the profession of transfer student services, and qualities such as humility, professionalism, dedication, fairness and unselfishness. The award also recognizes long and meritorious service to our profession (minimum 10 years). This award is also in recognition of significant participation and contributions to the activities of the Ohio Transfer Council.

The **Tom Vandermeulen Award** recognizes an individual whose contributions have led to the enhancement of relations among people of diverse cultures, ethnic groups, first generation college students, or students with special needs. The nominee need not be a member of the Ohio Transfer Council.

The **New Member Award** recognizes significant contributions to the Ohio Transfer Council by a member with fewer than five years in the transfer profession.

### Following are the 2009 Ohio Transfer Council Service/Merit Award recipients.

The **Jon Tafel Award** was awarded to **Pete Ross**, Vice President for Enrollment Management, Cuyahoga Community College. Here is Pete's nomination: "I met Pete when I first attended the NOTC conference in 1999. Since then I have heard him give numerous presentations on various transfer issues and have served with him on a number of committees. I also know that the OBR has relied on Pete's expertise, most recently to re-draft the articulation and transfer policy (a huge undertaking requiring someone intimately familiar with compliance and transfer administration). Regarding service to the OTC, Pete is a past president, a long-time board member and a driving force behind the merger of the NOTC and SOTC.

“In addition to being knowledgeable and experienced, Pete Ross is one of the nicest, most professional people I have had the pleasure to work with. He is the embodiment of the heart of this award: humble, professional, dedicated, fair and unselfish.”

The **Tom Vandermeulen Award** was awarded to **Linda Arnest**, Associate Director for Admissions, University of Cincinnati. Here is Linda’s nomination. “Linda began her work on transfer issues in 1999. Since then she has spearheaded the centralization and automation of transfer credit evaluation at the University of Cincinnati. Linda was directly involved in making UC one of the first schools in Ohio to receive electronic transcripts through the ATC. As for involvement in statewide transfer issues; Linda contributed to the formation of the SOTC and the merger of the SOTC and NOTC creating the OTC. Linda has also served on the OTC executive board and as the OTC representative on the OBR Articulation and Transfer Advisory Council since 2005. She is also a presenter for the OTC on Ohio transfer initiatives.

“Linda is truly dedicated to the needs of transfer students. Under her guidance UC has significantly improved service to transfers. This is the guiding force that keeps her going: students come first. And while doing all this; Linda has always shared with her team any recognition we may receive of the good work we do. It is a pleasure to work on her team.”

The **New Member Award** was awarded to **Kimberlee Avery**, Senior Assistant Director, University of Akron. Here is Kim’s nomination. “Kim Avery has been involved in the transfer profession since 2004. She has been a leader at her institution in credit evaluation, program planning and implementation, and student services for transfers. Students love to work with Kim. She encourages prospective transfer students to strive for success and to accomplish their academic and personal goals. Kim has been a leader in OTC, organizing and implementing several professional development seminars and serving as chair of the OTC annual conference for the past three years.