

David Byrd '81 Distinguished Achievement Citation

The Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to recognize **David Byrd '81** with the Distinguished Achievement Citation for his extraordinary professional accomplishments and lifelong commitment to volunteerism.

Since graduating from OWU with degrees in journalism and English creative writing, David has become a strong leader at every level of government—local, state, and federal. As the director of the Office of Central Services (OCS) for Prince George's County, Maryland, he now leads the county's largest department, managing a massive fleet of vehicles and over 100 buildings to keep the county running smoothly and efficiently.

As national director of the Minority Business Development Agency at the U.S. Department of Commerce, David oversaw record growth in contracts awarded to minority-owned businesses and expanded support for diverse entrepreneurs. His work at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development also strengthened his reputation as a policy leader, particularly through his contributions to the White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council.

In the private sector, David's expertise as a senior principal at Korn Ferry and as the founder of his own consulting firm, Byrd's Eye, LLC, has allowed him to mentor the next generation of leaders. As a certified professional coach and skilled communicator, he has spent decades helping organizations and individuals navigate complex public policy and economic landscapes.

In 2023, David was honored with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award from AmeriCorps for volunteering over 4,000 hours to coaching and mentoring incarcerated youth, and supporting homeless families and individuals in the Washington, D.C., metro area.

David's volunteer work also includes national security and public infrastructure. He was the chief of staff for the U.S. Army Advisory Committee, helping with military recruitment, support for spouses, and programs for service members leaving the service. He was named one of the "48 Men of Power and Influence" in the DMV area. He received the Champion for Minority Business Award, which recognizes his leadership in advancing minority entrepreneurship. David has consistently used his platform to create opportunities for others.