

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Claudia J. Coulton, Ph.D.

Class of 1969

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, the Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize Claudia J. Coulton, Ph.D., as an educator and agent for change.

Following her graduation from Ohio Wesleyan with a major in sociology, Claudia earned a M.S.W. from The Ohio State University and a Ph.D. in social welfare from Case Western Reserve University in 1978. She remained at Case Western Reserve, advancing from assistant professor to full professor in six years. Today she is a Distinguished University Professor and the Lillian F. Harris Professor of Urban Social Research at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences, Case Western Reserve University. She also founded and serves as co-director of the Center on Urban Poverty and Community Development.

The center's multidisciplinary team has been working for nearly 25 years to better understand the macro-level systemic forces that produce distressed neighborhoods and what can be done to reverse these conditions. Her current studies are examining processes of residential mobility and neighborhood identity in urban communities; the effects of the foreclosure crisis on low-income families and neighborhoods; and the influences of the built and social environment on outcomes for families and children.

Under Claudia's leadership, the center has become nationally recognized for putting research into action through community partnerships and has received more than \$30 million in grants and contracts to support the work. She and her colleagues recently received NIH funding to undertake a 20-year longitudinal study of neighborhood, community, and systemic factors affecting child abuse and neglect.

In addition, Claudia is one of the founders of the *National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership*, with affiliates in more than 35 cities that support technically advanced information solutions to urban social problems. She has served as an evaluation advisor to many community change initiatives, including those undertaken by the Aspen Institute, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

She is the author of more than 150 journal articles, book chapters, and policy reports and is a frequent presenter at national conferences. Her contributions to the field of social welfare have been recognized with a number of awards including induction into the *American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare*. In recent years, she also found time to serve as Visiting Lecturer at Hebrew University in Jerusalem and Visiting Scholar at the Urban Institute, Metropolitan Housing and Communities Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

For her professional achievements and her dedication to the practical application of research for community good, we applaud and recognize Claudia Coulton with this Distinguished Achievement Citation.

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