



# Cleveland State University



**DIANE M. DOWNING** was appointed to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees on November 8, 2024 by Governor Mike DeWine for a term ending May 1, 2033.

Since 2019, Ms. Downing has led the launch and expansion of Say Yes Cleveland. Under her leadership as executive director, Say Yes grew to offer support services in all 104 Cleveland Metropolitan School District and partner charter schools. In addition, the Say Yes Cleveland scholarship fund grew to \$106 million, guaranteeing scholarships for all eligible graduates for at least the next 25 years.

Prior to her work at Say Yes, Ms. Downing was the Senior VP and Director of Corporate Affairs for Huntington Bank in Cleveland. In that role, she developed strategies for expanding the Bank's community involvement through sponsorships and donations as well as membership on local boards.

She was on loan from the Bank from May 2015 through August 2016, when she served as the Chief Operating Officer of the Host Committee for the Republican National Convention, the non-profit civic group that enabled the Convention to come to Cleveland.

In addition, over Ms. Downing's extensive career in the City of Cleveland, she served as the Cleveland District Director for former US Senator George Voinovich; as VP and Stadium Operations Director for the Cleveland Browns; Project Manager for the construction of the Cleveland Browns Stadium; Executive for Service during the administration of former Mayor Michael White; Deputy Director of the Ohio Lottery; and on the executive staff in the Office of former Mayor George Voinovich. She came to Cleveland in 1977 to work for County Commissioner Seth Taft.

Ms. Downing holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science from Vassar College, and completed Harvard University's Senior Government Executive Program, as well as Stanford University's Executive Program for the National Football League. She has served on numerous civic boards throughout her career, including boards of trustees for Benjamin Rose, Karamu House, Beech Brook, and the Gordon Square Arts District, among others. She was recognized as a Crain's Cleveland Business Woman of Note, YWCA Greater Cleveland Woman of Achievement, Girl Scouts of NE Ohio Woman of Distinction, and Smart Business Magazine Non-Profit Executive of the Year in 2021, as well as other recognitions.

Throughout her career, she has actively participated with Cleveland State University through the CSU Foundation and has volunteered with the CSU Alumni Association's Women's Leadership Symposium.

Diane and her husband, attorney Tom Corrigan, live in Cleveland's Edgewater neighborhood and have three grown children.

12/4/2024