



Cleveland State University



NIKKI C. BYRD was appointed to the Cleveland State University Board of Trustees by Governor Mike DeWine on June 30, 2023 for a term ending May 1, 2032.

In 2023, Ms. Byrd established Byrd Acquisition Management, a real estate investment company that focuses on buying, renting, and selling residential properties in Northeast Ohio.

Ms. Byrd was a senior editor at American Greetings (AG), a major player in the global celebrations market with its headquarters located in Westlake, Ohio, before she launched her own company. Her 17-year tenure at AG showcased her capacity to drive innovation and spearhead strategic editorial direction for a portfolio of world-class brands.

Ms. Byrd proudly served in the US Air Force as an audiovisual documentation specialist from 1986 to 1990, rising to the rank of Sergeant. During her military career, she was stationed at Elmendorf Air Force Base (AFB) in Alaska and Andrews AFB in Maryland, where she received several awards and decorations. Notably, she was honored with Senior Airman Below the Zone and Combat Camera Operator of the Quarter by the Department of Defense.

Ms. Byrd is an alumna of Cleveland State University, graduating magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in communication. She also holds an MFA with honors in film from Columbia University.

Ms. Byrd served on the Cleveland State University Alumni Association Board from 2015 to 2021 and was the Board's president from 2017 to 2020. Additionally, she served as a member of the College of Arts and Sciences Visiting Committee, formerly CLASS, from 2019 to 2022.