

Volunteer of the Year

Our last individual award of the evening is the Volunteer of the Year award, which is given to an individual selected by the staff of OCIC for their enthusiasm and tireless work to advance the mission of the organization. This year, we are honored to present this award to an individual that has served as a Trustee for many years and has devoted every ounce of his free time to giving back to the community.

Paul Ackerman is the President of Ackerman Industrial Equipment, located in Curtice. Ackerman Industrial Equipment began operations in 1989 after purchasing the former Atlas Industrial Equipment Company of Gibsonburg, and under Paul's leadership, the company has grown to become the region's premier Nissan forklift sales and service outfit. The company also offers Barrett Industrial Trucks, Crown Industrial Batteries, Hand Pallet Trucks and Karcher Industrial Sweepers and Scrubbers among other services.

Paul has been involved in the OCIC for more than 20 years. He served several years on the executive board and played a key role in evaluating and deciding to bring workforce development services into the organization. This decision would give the OCIC a comprehensive menu of services to our local businesses and would transform the OCIC into

one of Ohio's only true economic AND workforce development agencies.

When the Ottawa County Resource Center was completed, which is home to the OCIC offices, Paul donated a forklift to the Resource Center workshop space and to the Volvo Penta marine program.

In 2015, OCIC invested in new signage and landscaping at the entrance to Lake Winds Industrial Park. I knew from the onset of this project that I could not design the layout of the project alone – and I knew just who could help me. It was Paul. Because outside of running a successful business, Paul is actually a horticulture expert. I even think horticulture was a major of his in college! So on some of the warmest days of 2015, Paul joined me with gardening tools in hand and helped complete the landscape project and of course it looks great.

But Paul's volunteer work doesn't stop there. He is a tireless supporter of his church, he has worked with offenders in the court system and he is a regular volunteer at the German American Festival in Oregon.

On behalf of the staff of the OCIC, we thank you Paul for the energy and support you have brought to the organization and the community for so many years. Ladies and gentleman, Paul Ackerman.

