

Oakland Community College

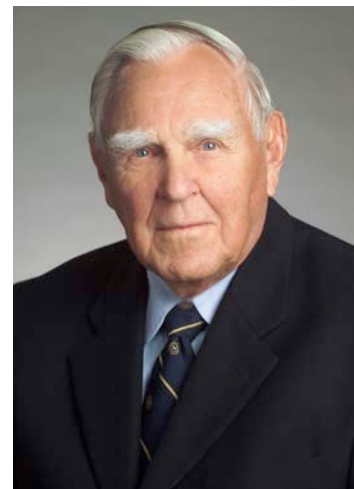
FOUNDERS OF OUR TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

OCC Charter Board Chair George R. Mosher, whose 92nd birthday occurs on March 19, the college's first Founders' Day observance, has been dubbed the "Father of OCC" for the central role he played in the establishment and early years of Oakland Community College.

Growing up on his family's ranch in South Dakota in the midst of the Great Depression, Mosher learned the lessons of hard work and diligence early – attributes that prepared him for later success.

During World War II, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, seeing action as a lieutenant (junior grade) in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

In 1948, he graduated from Columbia Law School, eventually moving to Birmingham to join the legal staff of the General Motors Corporation. After his retirement from GM he took employment with the Southfield law firm Brooks Kushman, where at age 92, he continues to work.



In the early 1960s, Mosher and his late wife, Doris, became actively involved in the effort to establish Oakland Community College. He was elected chair of the OCC Charter Board in 1964, a position he occupied until 1970. Mosher was reelected to successive boards in 1966 and 1972, but resigned in 1976 to concentrate on his professional career.

Because the new college had no facilities, the first board meetings were held in the Mosher's living room. Determined to create, as Mosher put it, "the best community college in the world," the Charter Board successfully negotiated the purchase of campus sites in Auburn Heights (now Auburn Hills), Waterford, and Farmington Hills within a year, and hired OCC's first president, the visionary and dynamic John Tirrell. In fall 1965, OCC opened its doors at two new campuses, Auburn Hills and Highland Lakes, to an enrollment of 3,850 students – a national record for newly-established community colleges at the time.

Although Mosher left the OCC Board of Trustees in 1976, he remained concerned and involved with the college's progress. For example, in 1965, 2002 and 2010 he led the Independent Citizens' Committees that successfully advocated millages critical to OCC's future.

In recognition of Mosher's many contributions to the college, the Auburn Hills Campus Library was named in his honor in 1977, and the headquarters of the OCC Foundation, which Doris Mosher helped co-found, was named the "Doris Mosher Foundation House" in 2009.

In 2000, the Mosher's established the George and Doris Mosher Endowed Scholarship, now totaling \$64,000, which benefits hundreds of deserving OCC students.

George and Doris Mosher, along with the charter members of the OCC Board of Trustees, are proof that the actions of committed individuals can positively affect the lives of hundreds of thousands. They truly embody the college's slogan, "community is our middle name."

All of us at OCC, students, faculty and staff alike, are forever in their debt.



OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE®
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