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Cincinnati State President Monica Posey sets retirement date

Dr. Monica J. Posey, president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, has informed the college's Board of Trustees that **she plans to retire effective August 31, 2026**, concluding a distinguished 34-year career at the institution, the last 10 years as president.

Under Dr. Posey's leadership, Cincinnati State has reached its highest enrollment in more than a decade serving over 14,000 students, achieved its strongest financial position in 30 years, and is producing graduates with the highest average earnings among all 22 Ohio community colleges. During this same period, the college doubled its regional economic impact to \$1.3 billion annually.

"These outcomes reflect a leadership approach grounded in collaboration, student success, and strategic growth," said Jane Garvey, chair of the Cincinnati State Board of Trustees.

Dr. Posey's presidency has also been defined by resilience during unprecedented challenges, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic. Under her leadership, Cincinnati State rapidly responded to the forced shutdown of in-person instruction and emerged as a more nimble, technologically advanced learning institution, expanding digital capacity while maintaining strong student outcomes.

In addition, under Dr. Posey's leadership, Cincinnati State and its foundation completed a comprehensive fundraising campaign with record results including the college's first-ever 7-figure gifts. The campaign included donations and grants from federal, state, and regional governments, corporate and private foundations, and individuals. A second comprehensive campaign is underway, already exceeding the previous record of \$21.5 million with \$25.3 million in commitments.

"From a foundation leadership perspective, Dr. Posey makes the job so much easier," said Mike Haunert, retired Sysco region president and chair of the Cincinnati State Foundation Board of Directors. "She is always willing to engage. That combined with her genuine passion for workforce development and supporting students, and her focus on building relationships where everyone benefits, makes it easy to attract new donors and strengthen connections with existing donors."

Dr. Posey's leadership has also been central to raising awareness of the value of community colleges with federal, state, and local government officials, and major employers throughout the region. Her leadership in developing student support programs and expanding high-skill education programs to meet workforce needs has also drawn featured coverage from national news outlets including PBS NewsHour, Inside Higher Education and others.

"I am deeply grateful for the support and partnership of our faculty, staff, Board of Trustees, employers, and the broader community," Dr. Posey said. "I am proud of what we accomplished together, and especially proud of our students, whose commitment to learning and preparing for critical careers has inspired me from day one."

A native of Philadelphia, Posey holds a Doctor of Education from the University of Cincinnati, a Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, and a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University. She also completed all PhD-level coursework in Quantitative Analysis and taught Statistics at the University of Cincinnati for many years.

Dr. Posey joined Cincinnati State after a business career with AT&T. Prior to becoming president of the college, she served as assistant dean, director of institutional research, and provost. She is the sixth president in the college's history.

Other accomplishments of Cincinnati State during Dr. Posey's 10-year leadership include:

- Becoming one of the first community colleges in Ohio approved to offer bachelor's degrees in nursing, land surveying, and culinary and food science.
- Developing a new Career Center, Transfer Center, and a state-of-the-art Health Simulation Lab.
- Expanding comprehensive student support initiatives, including CState Accelerate, CState Complete, the Parent Resource Center, the Food Pantry, and the Recovery Center.
- Expanding the Mallory Early Childhood Learning Center in partnership with Learning Grove.
- Improving overall student completion and success outcomes.
- Broadening articulation agreements with the University of Cincinnati, Miami University, Northern Kentucky University, Mount St. Joseph University, Xavier University, and other institutions to increase bachelor's degree attainment with significant cost savings.
- Dramatically expanding the College Credit Plus program, now serving more than 4,000 high school students annually.
- Launching a Medical Assisting Apprenticeship program with four regional hospital systems to address critical workforce needs.

Dr. Posey has been deeply engaged in the civic life of the state and region, including the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, service on the board of trustees for United Way of Greater Cincinnati, ArtsWave, Strive Partnership, Cincinnati Works, GRAD Cincinnati, Holocaust and Humanity Center, Health Collaborative of Greater Cincinnati, Greater Cincinnati Collegiate Council, and others. She is also on the board of Livingstone College in North Carolina.

Dr. Posey and her husband, Rev. Dr. Michael J. Posey, have also engaged in extensive community work that encompasses tutoring, mentoring, and an endowed scholarship at Cincinnati State.

Her leadership has been recognized through numerous honors, including the *Business Courier Women Who Mean Business*, the *Greater Cincinnati YWCA Career Women of Achievement*, the *Cincy Magazine Power 100 List*, the University of Cincinnati *Distinguished College of Education Alumni* award, and scores of speaking engagements."

The Cincinnati State Board of Trustees is initiating the process to identify the college's next president.

Following her retirement, Dr. Posey said she plans to continue advocating for higher education as a catalyst for economic mobility and for Cincinnati State as the premier educational option for the region.

"It's been an incredible career," she said.

ABOUT CINCINNATI STATE — Cincinnati State (www.cincinnatistate.edu) offers more than 140 bachelor's degrees, associate degrees and certificate programs in business technologies, health and public safety, engineering and information technologies, and humanities and sciences. Students benefit from affordable tuition, quality instruction, flexible scheduling, and in-person and online options. Cincinnati State also offers nationally recognized cooperative (co-op) learning programs, transferability to many universities, and custom training for employers through its Workforce Development Center.