

WARREN HIGH SCHOOLS'
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI HALL OF FAME
105 High Street, NW
WARREN, OHIO 44481

February 2018

The Board of Directors of the Warren City Schools' Foundation and the Committee of the Warren High Schools' Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame is pleased to announce the following inductees to the Class of 2018:

Roberta Cykon (Ohio) – WGH 1991

Resilient survivor of many adversities who has aspired to influence other women to do the same. Creator of *Integrity Beauty Women of Excellence*, that introduced the first ever Pageant Ministry, focusing on inward beauty. Featured author at Zephyr Gallery in Atlantic City as the author of "Princess in My Reflection." 2013 Tribune Chronicle and Trumbull 100 Community Star (2013). 2012 You Magazine, Editor's Choice, Inspirational Woman Community Star and numerous other awards. Mentors a wide range of women in areas of transition, bereavement, motivation and empowerment and serves as a consultant to those desiring to create vision projects and the achievement of results.

Brian Johnson (Ohio) – WGH 1984

A 28 year music teacher with The Akron Public School System and recipient of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Fine Arts Outstanding Teacher Award for the Akron Association of Black Educators. Professional opera singer, trained in Austria, Rome and New York City, who will be the soloist with The Cleveland Orchestra for this year's European Tour to Austria and Luxembourg. Often returns to Warren to perform with The Warren Philharmonic Orchestra or Opera Western Reserve and has sponsored student participation in The Warren Philharmonic Orchestra's production of Bizet's *Carmen*.

Mark Marvin (New Mexico and Ohio) – WGH 1983

Chief engineer for Diversified Concrete Product, designing concrete components and founder of The Marvin Group, engineering concrete structures. Returned to Warren to found the Downtown Development Group, a renovation group aiming to revitalize the Warren area by investing over \$4 million in building renovations and encouraging small business growth.

Norm Persin (Ohio) – WGH 1968

Social Studies teacher and head varsity basketball coach of 42 years at Oak Hill High School in Gallipolis. Seven time Ohio Coach of the Year and inductee into the Ohio Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame, the Ohio Athletic Director's Hall of Fame, as well as the Ohio Basketball Hall of Fame, being only 1 of 6 high school coaches as members. Coached at several basketball camps sponsored by Michael Jordan, Nike and LeBron James and is presently the co-director of LeBron James Kings Academy as well as Commissioner of Michael Jordan Flight School.

Gerardo Rollison (Ohio)- WWR 1972

General Legal Council for ProMedica Health Service. Instrumental in starting the Toledo Children's Hospital and holds the honor as Distinguished Fellow of that organization. Presently on the board of directors of the Toledo Ronald McDonald's House. Chairman of the Health Care Division for the law firm of Marshall and Melhorn, as well as Special Legal Counsel to the Ohio Attorney General. Selected to Best Lawyers in America and Who's Who in American Law.

John Ovid Russ (Deceased) – WGH 1953

The recession of 1958 greatly influenced the path John would follow. While jobs were scarce, he found employment first at Republic Steele Corporation where he participated in their management training program. He eventually rose to become the superintendent where he developed a reputation for being fair and honest with the labor force at the mill. This rapport with his workers led to him being elected to the first ever Labor/Management Participation Team, He was instrumental in installing The Seismometer which automatically measured strip flatness, a first in the steel industry. Upon retirement, he moved to Florida and was persuaded to work at Gulf States Steel In Gadsden, Alabama as Vice President. While there, he was a key leader in the plant realizing records of increased productivity and quality and reliability , enabling the first ever compensation payments for profit sharing along with gain sharing for all employees.

Vincent Sorrell, MD, FACC, FASE, FACP-ASIM (Kentucky) – WGH- 1980

While an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Temple University, Dr. Sorrell spent 7 years creating an internationally recognized state-of-the art echocardiology laboratory and was recognized as a world expert on the new tool called a 3-Dimensional echocardiography. He eventually rose to Associate Professor of Medicine and was appointed as the youngest Chief of the Division of Cardiology in the country. He went on to develop a similar advanced cardiovascular imaging program at the University of Arizona. His skills earned him numerous awards. He is presently on staff at the University of Kentucky Division of Cardiovascular Medicine as the Medical Director of Advanced Cardiovascular Imaging for the UK Hospital Enterprise and Associate Chief for the Division of Cardiovascular Medicine as well as the Program Director for the Adult Cardiovascular Fellowship Training program. He is the author of numerous publications.

Sarah Anzelmo- Steele (Virginia) WGH 1998

After completing her Bachelor of Arts degree at Westminster and her graduate degree at George Mason, Sarah moved to Virginia where she began her career as a 6th to 8th grade inner city teacher of Civics, Economics and American History, as well as an International Baccalaureate instructor in Richmond's only Middle School IB Programme. She serves as the faculty representative for Student Government, coordinating the school's History/Black History programs, serves as department chair, and as a member of the school's leadership team. She has organized numerous field trips to the Virginia General Assembly resulting in her students connecting with state and local legislators, thus enabling her students to participate in lobbying activities. She was awarded the Community Foundation's R.E.B. Award, a grant for area educators. This award followed an interviewing process that ultimately earned her grant money to engage in meaningful professional development by traveling to Poland and Prince Edward Island (Canada) to connect the classic "Anne of Green Gables" to the World War II Polish Resistance. She previously served as a member of the VEA Government Relations Committee, drafting state and local policy and legislation and lobbied state and local representatives.

Cheryl Warfield (New York) WGH 1976

Cheryl presently is General Director of the Manhattan Opera Repertory Ensemble in New York, NY, where she strives to assist individuals of various backgrounds and age groups understand and appreciate opera. She designs high caliber outreach programs to enlighten and educate audiences. She collaborates with esteemed conductors to ensure high quality performances. Her charitable causes include ADVANCE (the Association for the Development of Vocal Artistry), as well as Classical Vocal Arts for Children which assists students in learning vocal technique and stage deportment while singing traditional standards and songs of America. She has performed with the Lyric Opera of Chicago , Opera Columbus, on Broadway and the Metropolitan Opera. She has performed over 15 lead roles in the standard operatic repertoire lead including title roles of Tosca, Aida and La Gioconda. This year she will make her debut with Empire Opera in Verdi's "Macbeth" singing the role of Lady Macbeth.

The Board is also pleased to announce the **2018 Distinguished Faculty**:

Dennis Girton: WGH Vocal Music teacher. **Raymond Crawford**: WGH Zoology teacher.