



The Bliss Institute of Applied Politics

The University of Akron's Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics is a bipartisan research, teaching, and experiential learning institute dedicated to increasing understanding of the political process with special emphasis on political parties, grassroots activity, civility and ethics, and hands-on learning through internships and events.

Students can pursue a Master of Applied Politics, J.D./Master of Applied Politics, Certificate in Applied Politics, or a Certificate in Applied Political Communication. The Bliss Institute offers a nationally recognized internship program and sponsors public programs, conferences, and research on topics such as campaign finance, campaign advertising, and political organizations. Established in 1986, the institute has a distinguished list of graduates at all levels of politics and government.

Visit uakron.edu/bliss to learn more about the Bliss Institute.

The University of Akron

Since its founding in 1870, The University of Akron has continued to shape the regional economy and form the next generation of thinkers, experts, artists, and leaders. Students come from across the country and around the world to enjoy the University's top-ranked and in-demand degree programs, ranging from associate through doctoral degrees in the liberal arts, sciences, health care, engineering, business, law, education, and more.

Surrounded by thousands of businesses in the Akron metropolitan area, including Fortune 500 companies, the University provides countless opportunities for co-ops, internships, part-time employment, and other real-world experiences, equipping students for the challenges of today and the opportunities of tomorrow.

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- P R E S E N T S -

Honorary Certificate of Applied Politics Reception



- F E A T U R I N G -

**Janet Weir Creighton and
Mary Ellen Withrow**

May 9, 2023

Janet Weir Creighton



The Honorable Janet Weir Creighton was elected to the Board of Stark County Commissioners in 2010. As President of the Board, Commissioner Creighton brings the county more than 35 years of elected experience where she has cultivated a diverse background in government and public affairs.

Prior to returning to public service in Stark County, Janet was Deputy Assistant to The President of the United States and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs from January 2008 until January 2009 in Washington, D.C. As the Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, she was the direct liaison between The President and officials in all cities, counties and states.

From 2004 - 2007, Janet served as the first female Mayor of the City of Canton. Prior to serving as Mayor, she was the Stark County Auditor (1991-2003) and Stark County Recorder (1985-1991).

Throughout her life, Janet has been selected to serve on many boards and commissions including a previous appointment to the Ohio Rail Commission, Public Director of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board for the 5th District, President of the Ohio County Auditors Association, Former Trustee of Malone University, and Chairman of the Board for Arts in Stark. In June, 2022 Creighton was elected Chairman of the Stark County Republican Party.

Mary Ellen Withrow



Mary Ellen Withrow was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to be the 40th Treasurer of the United States on February 10 and sworn into office March 1, 1994.

She is the first person to have held the post of treasurer at all three levels of government- local, state and national. She was elected Treasurer of her native Marion County, Ohio in 1976 and 1980. She was elected as Ohio State Treasurer in 1982 and re-elected in 1986 and 1990.

As Treasurer of the United States, Withrow is responsible for the operations of both the U.S. Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. She is also the National Honorary Director of the U.S. Savings Bond program and in that capacity represents the Treasury Secretary nationwide to promote the sale of savings bonds.

During her tenure as Ohio's Treasurer, Withrow's innovative programs, management efficiencies and record earnings for Ohio earned her nationwide recognition. In March 1992, she received the Donald L. Scantlebury Memorial Award from the Treasury's Joint Financial Management Improvement Program for financial excellence and improvement in government.



Opening Remarks and Welcome

J. CHERIE STRACHAN

Director, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics

Presentation of Honorary Certificates

STEPHEN BROOKS

Associate Director Emeritus, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics

Remarks

JANET WEIR CREIGHTON

MARY ELLEN WITHROW

Bliss Institute Professional Network Remarks

GREG BENNETT

Closing Remarks

J. CHERIE STRACHAN

Director, Bliss Institute of Applied Politics