

2016 Outstanding Service Award Recipients



Brenda Ragen - Retiree

Former IHCC employee Brenda Ragen, who worked at the college for more than 25 years, was given the Outstanding Retiree Award for her involvement and support of the college since retiring. Ragen is the vice president of the IHCC retirees' group, the Trailblazers. She has organized fundraisers for scholarships for deserving students, has assisted with the Foundation auction and organized the Trailblazers when they decided to prepare cookie and candy trays at Christmas for IHCC staff on the Ottumwa and Centerville campuses.



Jean Dell - Lay Citizen

The Outstanding Lay Citizen Award went to Jean Dell, an active member of the Indian Hills Foundation Board for the past six years. This award honors an area community member who has made notable contributions to IHCC. Dell chairs the Planned Giving committee, serves on the Investment committee and is actively involved in the Foundation's special events and fundraisers. She assists each year with the scholarship auction and was a key figure in helping organize the Women Supporting Women event that has raised almost \$60,000 to fund scholarships for women attending Indian Hills. Dell and her husband, Bill, attend many IHCC events and are long-time supporters of the college.



Bob Ford - Alumnus Award

Bob Ford, owner and COO of Socius Marketing, a search engine optimization marketing firm based in Tampa, Fla., was honored with the Outstanding Alumnus Award, which recognizes achievements since an alumnus graduated from Indian Hills. Ford, a 1970 IHCC graduate, has a long history of growing successful businesses. Currently, under his leadership, Socius has assisted over 700 companies' websites across 46 states and four countries. He was also instrumental in helping with the growth of AEGON, a Texas-based insurance company, and Midland National Life in South Dakota, and he owned and operated an E-Z-Go dealership. In his presentation it was noted that Ford has carried his Iowa farming work ethic and principles throughout his career.



Freddy Miranda- IHCC Employee Award

Freddy Miranda, the former Director of International Affairs at IHCC, grew the college's international enrollment from 35 to nearly 170 in a little over three years. Miranda spearheaded countless student-focused initiatives, and he was recognized for contributing in a variety of ways to the growth that was achieved. A native of Ecuador, Miranda was referred to as "a dedicated person... who was known across campus because of his unique personality....and was so well-known in the international education field, that people from across the United States and around the world were affected by his sudden passing." Miranda's award was presented posthumously, as he was tragically killed earlier in the year while on a recruiting trip in South America.



Ray Ryon - IHCC Employee Award

Ray Ryon, IHCC Computer Software Development program educator, was honored due to his service, loyalty and support of the college. In addition to his teaching, Ryon, helps at numerous activities, including the annual Lego League robotics competition. One of his nominators said perhaps the most important facet of his dedication to Indian Hills is his service to students, saying his "knowledge of the field is evident. He continually educates himself and maintains current technical knowledge, sometimes even cutting-edge technology." Ryon is recognized as a skilled and patient instructor, who makes every effort to help students succeed.
