



Jerry Sue Thornton

President, DreamCatcher Education Consulting
President Emerita
Cuyahoga Community College

Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton served as Tri-C's president from 1992 to 2013, a period marked with significant institutional growth and development at the College. During her tenure, enrollment grew 40 percent, and she led \$300 million worth of renovation and construction projects, also increasing the college's foundation from \$1.3 million to \$40 million.

Upon retiring, Jerry Sue was named president emerita of Cuyahoga Community College. She currently serves as president and CEO of DreamCatcher Education Consulting, a firm focused on coaching and professional development for newly selected college and university presidents.

She earned a Ph.D. from The University of Texas in Austin and Masters and Bachelors from Murray State University in Kentucky.

Her board service included membership on the boards of Applied Industrial Technologies, Inc., National City Bank and National City Corporation, Bridgestreet Worldwide, Inc., Republic Powdered Metals, Inc., American Family Insurance, FirstEnergy Corporation, Office Max.

Her current Board membership includes Barnes and Noble Education, Inc. (BNED), Parkwood Corporation (investment company), Johnson Wales University Providence, RI), JobsOhio (Ohio's business recruitment arm) and Mandel Foundation.

She has also provided service as co-chair of the 21st Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges, on the board of visitors of the Marine Corps University, and on the Community College Advisory Board of Dynamic Campus. Her local community service includes the boards of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, University Hospitals, Museum of Art, Playhouse Square, United Way of Greater Cleveland, Cuyahoga Community College Foundation,

Her numerous awards and honors include four honorary doctorates – from the College of St. Catherine, Youngstown State University, Baldwin Wallace University, and Cleveland State University. She was inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and was awarded the American Council on Education Fellows' Mentor of the Year Award, the 2014 American Association of Community Colleges' Community College Leadership Award, the Diverse Champions Award by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 2014 Community Service Award for Outstanding Achievement. In 2013, Jerry Sue was named one of the "Top 25 Women in Higher Education" by Diverse: Issues in Higher Education. In 2018, she received the City of Cleveland's Heritage Award, and, from the First Tee of Cleveland, the Del deWendt Award. In 2019, she received the Cleveland Arts Prize award.

Jerry Sue and her husband, Walter, live in Moreland Hills, Ohio. She has two daughters: Kathy and Karen with four grandchildren: Sam, Jack, Alex and Kathryn.