



**For Immediate Release
March 20, 2015**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Paula Siebeneck
(419) 302-8222**

Rhodes State College President Receives Bowling Green State University Alumni Award

Lima, OHIO – Dr. Debra McCurdy, President of Rhodes State College, was named the recipient of the 2015 Bowling Green State University College (Ohio) Alumni Award for the College of Education and Human Development. Presented at the BGSU Alumni Awards Program on March 7, the award is given to alumni who personify the University’s tradition as an institution of excellence. Outstanding College Alumni are chosen annually to represent each of the University's seven colleges, highlighting the diverse disciplines of a comprehensive university. “The nomination was a complete surprise and an honor to receive recognition from my alma mater,” stated President McCurdy. Through outstanding achievements and civic, cultural, and charitable contributions, these individuals bring honor to BGSU, their respective colleges, the Alumni Association, and thousands of graduates the Association represents.

Criteria for nominees included an earned degree from Bowling Green State University or have completed more than 60 hours of coursework at BGSU and provide exceptional leadership or innovation in their profession or community.

Debra McCurdy, PhD, currently serves as the president and chief executive officer of Rhodes State College in Lima, Ohio. Appointed president of Rhodes State College in 2006, Dr. McCurdy has seen the college grow by 27% under her leadership. Her focus on strategic planning and a shared vision has contributed to student success. “This is an ‘*all-in*’ approach that created the foundation for broad faculty and staff engagement,” says President McCurdy.

Dr. McCurdy received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education from BGSU and her doctorate in higher education administration and supervision. Prior to being appointed president of Rhodes State College, Dr. McCurdy served as provost and chief operating officer for Georgia Perimeter College from 1997 to 2006. Prior to that, she was associate provost at Clark Atlanta University in Atlanta. Dr. McCurdy is also active in the Lima community serving as

chair of the Lima Memorial Hospital Audit committee, the Lima/Allen County Chamber of Commerce Board and also serves on the Lima Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees, among others.

President McCurdy was one of four finalists for the American Association of Community Colleges Emerging Leadership Award in 2014, recognizing CEOs who have created a campus culture that supports employee leadership advancement at all levels.

Dr. McCurdy previously served as vice president for academic affairs for Paul Quinn College in Waco, Texas, and assistant dean at Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass. She is a member of numerous professional organizations including the American Association of Community Colleges, American Association of University Women, and Presidents' Round Table for African American CEOs. Dr. McCurdy has received a number of awards such as the Georgia Association of Educational Office Personnel Administrator of the Year award, Georgia Perimeter College Atlas Presidential Award, Bowling Green State University Distinguished Service Award and was named an Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1985.

###