

S P I R I T of SouthArk P R E S I D E N T ' S A W A R D

David Ross



David Ross, a member of the South Arkansas Community College Board of Trustees since its inception in 1992, is the recipient of the 2015 Spirit of SouthArk President's Award.

Ross helped lead the campaign to merge Oil Belt Technical College and SAU-El Dorado into SouthArk as a member of the Executive Merger Committee before being appointed to the board.

He has been a board member alongside four college presidents: Dr. Ben Whitfield, Dr. Kathy Matlock, Dr. Alan Rasco and current SouthArk President Dr. Barbara Jones. During his tenure as board chair, both the Administration Building and the Gymnasium underwent extensive renovations. He was a member of boards that saw construction of the Library, Computer Technology Building, Center for Workforce Development and Health Science Center, as well as many other capital improvement projects.

Former Trustee Sherrel Johnson noted Ross' focus on students. "I found that he was primarily mindful of students' experiences, and approached every topic and-or policy discussion from a student-advocate perspective," she said.

Ross is a graduate of Washington High School in El Dorado. He was employed for 34 years at Lion Oil in El Dorado, retiring in 2002 as a loading-dock supervisor at the company's asphalt plant. He is a former treasurer of Local 381 of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

"The profound trust, respect, and admiration that he enjoyed from the SouthArk faculty were shared widely by those who had the privilege to know and work with him," former SouthArk dean Dr. Ben Johnson said of Ross.

Former Board Chair Joffre Long added "My remembrances of David Ross all have one theme: a person with charm, wit, and a wonderful perspective of life."

