

Founders Day Honorees:

Kim Baggett

Ms. Baggett is Beacon College's longest serving employee, having worked for the College for more than 20 years and holding positions ranging from receptionist to Registrar. Her current position is Associate Vice President of Human Resources.

Sam Battaglia

Mr. Battaglia, father of a Beacon alumna, served a long tenure with the Board of Trustees, beginning his term in 1998 and serving as Chair from 2010-2011.

Deborah Brodbeck

Ms. Brodbeck is Beacon's longest serving president, having served a tenure lasting 19 years during a time of tremendous growth and transformation for the College, and securing President-emeritus status.

Ron Dowdy

In the early 2000s, Mr. Dowdy took on the role of Vice President of Finance and Administration to secure financial stability for the College and compliance with SACS regulations as Beacon worked toward earning regional accreditation.

Patricia & Peter Latham

Mr. and Mrs. Latham, both accomplished lawyers, are the parents of a son with learning disabilities. They are the founding members of Beacon College, having created and incorporating the College after finding no suitable higher education opportunities for their son.

Eileen Marinakis

Mrs. Marinakis, the mother of a Beacon alumnus, has been connected with the College since 1993 and has held various roles on the Board of Trustees since 2006, currently serving as Chair of the Board.

Sylvia Neill

Mrs. Neill, mother of a Beacon alumnus, was Chair of the Board of Trustees in 1992 and again in 1996. She introduced Deborah Brodbeck to Beacon College, knowing that Ms. Brodbeck's extensive work in the field of learning disabilities would prove vital in the role of president.

Terri Ross

Dr. Ross has the distinction of being Beacon College's longest serving faculty member. Since 1996, Dr. Ross has created at least 16 different courses related to the field of anthropology, and she developed a new faculty training program that is still in existence today.

Debbie Townley

Dr. Townley joined forces with Ms. Brodbeck to prepare Beacon College for regional accreditation with SACS in 2003. As the first Vice President of Academic Affairs at the College, Dr. Townley transformed the field placement program and developed the initial academic mentoring program, which, as the current Center for Student Success, has become a cornerstone of the Beacon academic model.

Dianna Wade

Mrs. Wade was Beacon's first professional librarian, having assumed the role in early 1996 as Beacon College was seeking accreditation from SACS. Dianna was instrumental in building a physical and virtual library for the student body, complete with an extensive collection of books and databases on learning disabilities.

Richard Williams

Dr. Williams, the father of a Beacon alumna, joined the Board of Trustees in 2004, becoming Chair in 2005. Dr. Williams recruited new members for the Board, which was comprised of parents of Beacon students and alumni. Dr. Williams helped create a more diverse Board of Trustees who brought their varying perspectives and backgrounds but still had an appreciation and understanding of the College's mission.

Vinnie Ziccolella

Dr. Ziccolella has the distinction of serving the longest tenure on Beacon College's Board of Trustees, starting with the College during Deborah Brodbeck's presidency and retiring just this past year. With his impressive background in special education, Dr. Ziccolella was a natural choice to join the Board and lend his considerable expertise in all facets of the institution, from its curriculum to its campus layout, and acting as the Board liaison for the SACS accreditation process.