



Three More Names Released for 20 Notable People of Avon Award

(November 13, 2015) The Town of Avon is celebrating its 20th Anniversary on November 30, 2015. As part of the celebration, a contest was held to select 20 Notable People of Avon that have made a positive impact on Avon or are from Avon and have made an impact beyond Avon. Residents submitted names and a Selection Committee selected the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The Select Committee was Pam Lyons (Avon Rotary), William Rhodehamel (Hendricks County Community Foundation), Beverley Austin (Avon Town Council), Pat Laughlin (Deputy Township Trustee), Nic Quintana (Avon Kiwanis), Susan Truax (Avon Library) and Rachel Shelton (Avon Tri Kappa)

Over the next few weeks, leading up to November 30, we will be releasing the names of the 20 Notable People of Avon. Today is the third release of three names of the 20 Notable People of Avon.

The seventh Notable Person of Avon is Dr. Richard Helton.

Dr. Helton was superintendent of Avon Schools from 1990 to 2004. He managed a student population that grew from 2,800 students in 1990 to 6,400 students in 2004 and supervised \$140 million of building construction including Avon High School.

During his tenure at Avon Schools, the graduation rate was 90% and 82% of graduates pursued a college education. Also, Avon Schools were in the top 12% of all schools for ISTEP.

Dr. Helton is a recipient of an Honorary Doctorate from Hanover College, Indiana University's Outstanding Leadership and Contribution to Education Award, Alpha Beta Gamma's College President of the Year, and Phi Theta Kappa's Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction.

He is also a recipient of the Indiana School Boards Association's Lorin A. Burt Educator of the Year Award and the Indiana Department of Education's Bell Ringer Award. He was twice named a Sagamore of the Wabash.

The eighth Notable Person of Avon is Pam DeWeese.

Pam has served on the Avon School Board for 21 years and is the founder of the Avon Education Foundation.

She is the longest serving female and the second longest serving Board member in the history of Avon Schools. She has served as President of the Board and currently serves as Vice President. She has been recognized as a “Master Board Member” by the Indiana School Boards Association and received the “People Who Make A Difference” award from IUPUI.

She was elected as the first Board President for the Avon Education Foundation and helped raise \$300,000 in private donations for Avon Schools.

Pam is a co-founder of the Partners in Education Volunteer Program and is past President of the Avon Elementary PTO. She co-chaired the Academic Achievement Committee of the Strategic Plan, served on two redistricting committees and has been a member of the Band, Choir and Sports Boosters Clubs and Band Together. She has served on the finance and stewardship committees at Avon United Methodist Church.

The ninth Notable Person of Avon is Lloyd Acton.

Lloyd graduated from Avon High School in 1959 with 8 varsity letters. He is a member of the Avon High School Wall of Fame. He served on the Avon School Board for 28 years from 1980 to 2008 and currently serves on the Avon Community School Facilities Corporation.

He served on the Indiana School Board Executive Board from 2000 to 2009 where he was President from 2006 to 2007.

His awards include the Avon Rotary Club Citizen of the Year, Avon Alumnus of the Year, Indiana Outstanding Boardmanship, Indiana Governor’s Distinguished Hoosier Award and the Indiana Department of Education Bell Ringer Award.

He has been on fifteen mission trips and is a member of the Avon Optimist Club.

The V. Lloyd Acton Leadership in Education Scholarship was established in 2000 in his honor to provide scholarships for students majoring in education.