

2017

Orange County Public Schools

Hall of Fame

Celebrating Decades of Student Success



O n behalf of my fellow school board members, welcome to the Orange County Public Schools 2017 Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. As you will soon learn, this year's inductees have made a significant impact on the Central Florida community and beyond.

I am proud of each and every one of the honorees we are recognizing this year. Their commitment to making better lives for not only our young people, but also our community as a whole, is truly inspirational. They embody what we mean when we say "OCPS Means Success."

It is my great honor to serve as chairman of the School Board of Orange County and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made this event possible.

Sincerely,

Bill Sublette

S ince 2012, it has been my distinct honor to lead Orange County Public Schools as superintendent. I am especially proud because I am also a product of OCPS, starting at Eccleston Elementary and graduating from Winter Park High School. Our district and the Central Florida community are very special to me.

Noting what this year's Hall of Fame honorees have achieved in their lives is inspiring. It's also exciting to imagine what our dedicated staff members are preparing today's students to accomplish in the future.

Consider this: our teachers are preparing students for professions that do not exist yet. They will solve problems that we do not know about today. They will use technology that has yet to be invented. I believe our brilliant youth will be well prepared for the challenge, thanks to our entire OCPS team and this community's support.

On behalf of our 24,000 employees and 203,000 students, thank you for supporting our past, present and future stars!

Sincerely,

Barbara M. Jenkins, Ed.D.





Reception

Music provided by Freedom High School String Ensemble

Dinner

Music provided by Dr. Phillips High School Jazz Ensemble

Welcome

Mistress of Ceremonies, Vanessa Echols, WFTV Channel 9

Recognition of our Sponsors

Bill Sublette, School Board Chairman

OCPB: The Heartbeat of Central Florida

Dr. Barbara Jenkins, Superintendent

Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

David "Deacon" Jones

Toni Jennings

Wayne Brady

James Schott

S. James Gates, Jr.

Musical Performance

Christian Cuevas

Freedom High School Graduate and Semifinalist on NBC's *The Voice*



David “Deacon” Jones

Hungerford High School — Class of 1957

David “Deacon” Jones was born in Eatonville, Florida, where his parents ran a barbecue stand. He attended Hungerford High School and played football, baseball and basketball. Jones graduated in 1957 and began his college football career at South Carolina State University. However, after he became active in the civil rights movement, the school revoked his scholarship. In 1960, Jones was recruited by Mississippi Vocational College, now Mississippi Valley State University.

In 1961, the Los Angeles Rams selected Jones in the 14th round of the NFL draft. He quickly became a dominant defensive end and part of the Rams’ “Fearsome Foursome” defensive line, along with Lamar Lundy, Rosey Grier and Merlin Olsen.

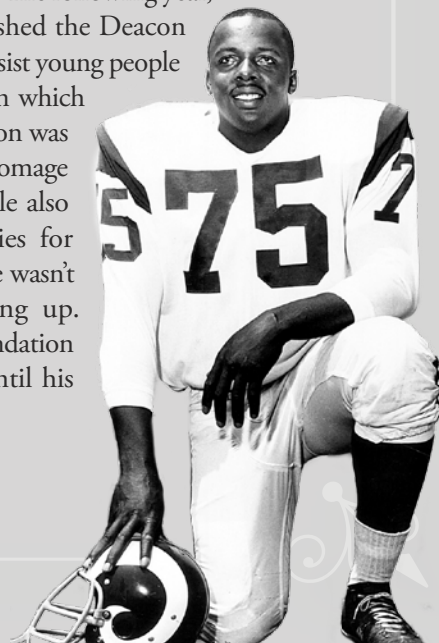
Jones is known as one of the greatest pass rushers in NFL history and is credited with coining the term “sacking the quarterback,” which eventually became an official statistic in the NFL record books.

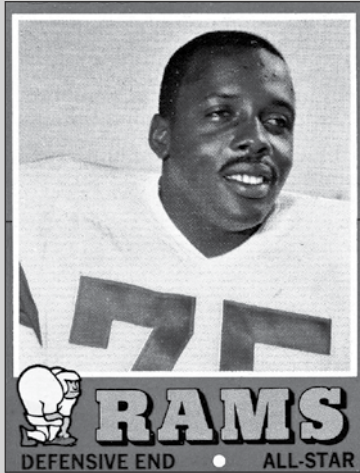
The Pro Football Hall of Famer played 14 seasons as a defensive end for the Los Angeles Rams (1961-1971), San Diego Chargers (1972-1973) and Washington Redskins (1974).

Jones’ honors include earning eight Pro Bowl selections, being named to the NFL’s 75th Anniversary

All-Time Team in 1994 and being ranked in the top 20 of *The Sporting News* list of the 100 Greatest Football Players (1999). In the same year, *Sports Illustrated* named Jones the “Defensive End of the Century.” Jones was also named the “Secretary of Defense” by Los Angeles fans, the “Most Valuable Ram of All Time” by the *Los Angeles Times*, and the “Greatest Defensive End of Modern Football” by Coach George Allen. During his 14-year career, Jones missed only five games.

Off the field, Jones spent some time as an actor, making appearances in *The Brady Bunch*, *Bewitched* and other television shows. He released his autobiography, [Headslap: The Life and Times of Deacon Jones](#) in 1996. The following year, he and his wife established the Deacon Jones Foundation to assist young people and the communities in which they live. The Foundation was a way for Jones to pay homage to his upbringing, while also providing opportunities for inner-city youth that he wasn’t afforded while growing up. Jones served as the Foundation president and CEO until his passing in 2013.





Toni Jennings

Winter Park High School — Class of 1967

Among the most prominent figures in Florida's history, Toni Jennings has dedicated nearly 30 years to public service. A product of Orange County Public Schools, Jennings attended Fern Creek Elementary School and Glenridge Middle School. After graduating from Winter Park High School in 1967, Jennings earned her bachelor of arts degree from Wesleyan College.

She began her professional career as a fifth-grade teacher with Orange County Public Schools at Killarney Elementary. She later went on to become a member of the Florida House of Representatives.

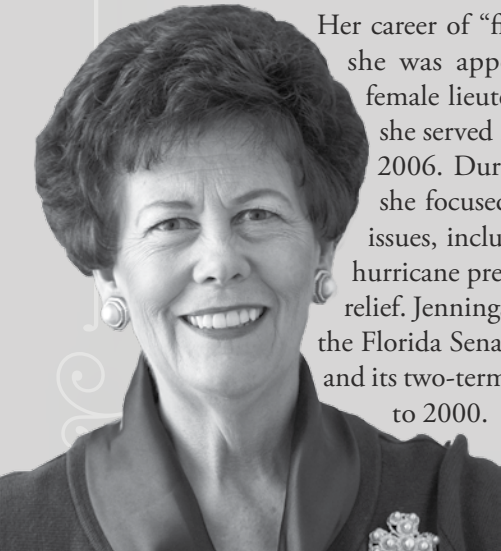
In 1976, when she took the oath of office, she became the youngest woman ever elected to the Florida Legislature and the first female Republican leader of either house of the legislature.

Her career of "firsts" continued when she was appointed Florida's first female lieutenant governor, a role she served in from 2003 through 2006. During her time in office, she focused on a number of key issues, including education policy, hurricane preparedness and disaster relief. Jennings was also a member of the Florida Senate from 1980 to 2000 and its two-term president, from 1996 to 2000.

During this time, she also worked at Jack Jennings & Sons, Inc., a general contractor and construction management business founded by her father in 1948. From 1982 to 2003, she served as the company's president, and in 2007, returned to serve as chairman of the board to work alongside her brothers to maintain the family business. Jennings still serves in that position.

Her contribution to the Central Florida community also includes service on numerous community boards, including Brown & Brown, Inc., the Florida Council of 100, the Nemours Foundation, Next Era Energy, Post Properties, the Winter Park Health Foundation and more. She is also a past member of the board of trustees for Rollins College.

Jennings has earned countless awards throughout her career. In 2002, she was inducted into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame, was recognized as the "2004 Central Floridian of the Year" by the *Orlando Sentinel*, and received the "Distinguished Women" award from the Florida League of Women Voters, as well as the "Friend of Education" award from the Florida School Boards Association, among countless other honors.





Wayne Brady

Dr. Phillips High School — Class of 1989

Wayne Brady was born in Columbus, Georgia, but moved to Orlando when he was young, where he was raised by his paternal grandmother. At an early age, he expressed an affinity for the arts, creating plays, commercials and songs inspired by 1950s and 60s music and television.

While a student at Dr. Phillips High School, Brady joined ROTC and planned to go into the military. But after receiving major acclaim for a performance in a high school play, he shifted his focus to theater.

After graduating in 1989, he quickly became involved in the Central Florida arts community. In addition to roles at Universal Studios, he also performed in a number of classic stage shows, including *A Chorus Line*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*. He was also a regular at Orlando's SAK Comedy Lab, and in 1992, was named Rookie of the Year for Theatre/Sports Improv.

Brady moved to Las Vegas, where he became known for his impressions of rock 'n' roll celebrities like Elvis, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard. He also spent some time performing in a musical revue in Hawaii before moving to Los Angeles.

In California, he earned a number of guest-starring roles in television series, including, *I'll Fly Away*, *In the Heat of the Night* and *The Home Court*. In 1998, Brady became a regular on the improv-based comedy

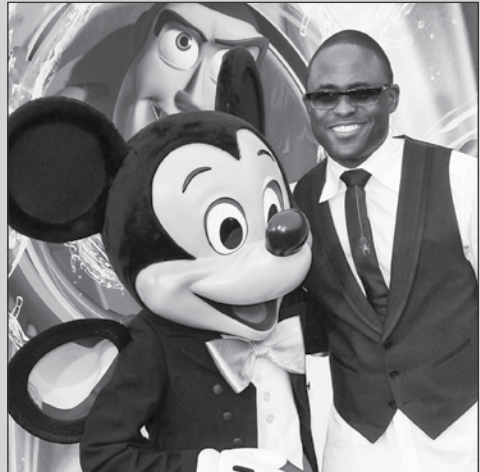
show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* Three short years later, *The Wayne Brady Show* was launched on ABC.

In the early 2000s, Brady joined the Broadway revival of *Chicago*, and made several guest appearances on *How I Met Your Mother*, *30 Rock*, *Everybody Hates Chris* and a number of other television sitcoms.

In 2017, Brady joined the Chicago cast of *Hamilton* in the role of Aaron Burr. He will also return for his eighth season as host of *Let's Make a Deal* and his fifth season of *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*

Brady has won a Primetime Emmy Award for Outstanding Individual Performance in a Variety or Music Program (*Whose Line Is It Anyway?*); two Daytime Emmy Awards for Outstanding Talk Show Host (*The Wayne Brady Show*); a Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Original Song ("30,000 Reasons to Love Me" for *Let's Make a Deal*); and a Grammy for Best Spoken Word Album for Children.





James Schott

OCPS Superintendent — 1980-1992

James “Jim” Schott grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana, and graduated from Marian College in 1961. He began his career in Indianapolis where he taught Latin and English, and was an athletic coach. He continued his education, earning degrees from Butler University and Purdue University, and went on to serve as a high school principal in Tennessee, and assistant superintendent for Planning, Business Services and Community Relations in Ohio.

Schott moved to Central Florida in 1977, when he was hired as deputy superintendent for instruction at Orange County Public Schools. Three years later, he became superintendent, a position he held until 1992. Schott played an integral part in the development of many programs that have continued to make a profound and positive impact on the district, its students and the OCPS team.

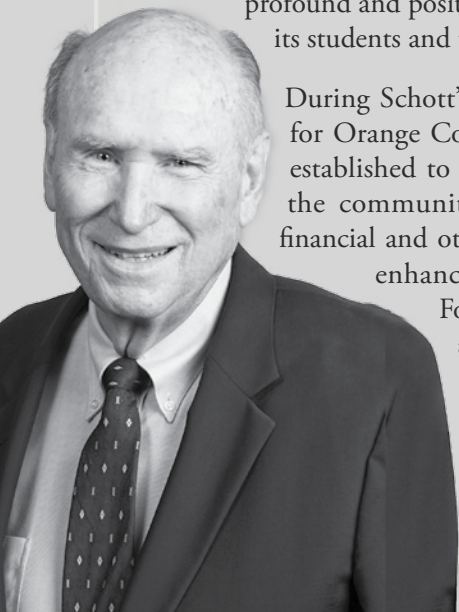
During Schott’s tenure, the Foundation for Orange County Public Schools was established to connect the district with the community, while also providing financial and other resources for learning enhancement. Since 2005, the Foundation has helped secure and steward more than \$25 million in community

support for district schools, students and teachers. He also oversaw the introduction of magnet and International Baccalaureate programs in the district.

After serving as superintendent, Schott made the decision to “do something new and different every three to five years until age 100.” He has served as president and trustee of United Arts of Central Florida, Regional President of Voyager Expanded Learning and founder of an educational consulting company, Creative Education Solutions. He was also a volunteer with Junior Achievement of Central Florida and helped develop the JA Academy for Leadership and Entrepreneurship at Oak Ridge High School.

Since 2000, Schott has continued his passion for teaching at the Orlando campus of National-Louis University, where he was named Distinguished Professor of Practice, Educational Leadership.

His professional accolades include the 2006 Donald A. Fleming Distinguished Alumni Award from Marian University and the 2007 Henry Cragg Volunteer Award from Junior Achievement of Central Florida.





S. James Gates, Jr.

Jones High School — Class of 1969

Most noted for his work on supersymmetry, supergravity and superstring theory, Sylvester James Gates, Jr. first became interested in science at just eight years old when his father bought him an Encyclopedia Britannica set. His father served in the U.S. Army and by the sixth grade, Gates had lived in six cities.

Through the years, the importance of education continued to be a major part of his upbringing. After graduating Jones High School in 1969, Gates earned both his B.S. degrees in mathematics and physics, and his Ph.D. degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

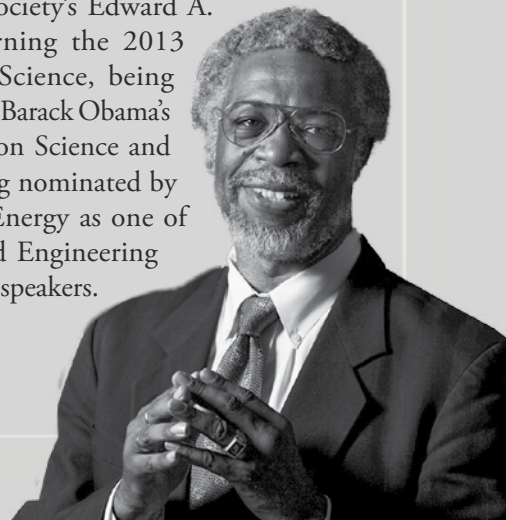
From 1977 to 1980, Gates attended Harvard University as a junior fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows. He later accepted teaching roles at various universities, including MIT and Howard University. At MIT, he served as an assistant professor of applied mathematics and director of the Office of Minority Education. At Howard, he served as a professor of physics and the director of the Center for the Study of Terrestrial and Extraterrestrial Atmospheres.

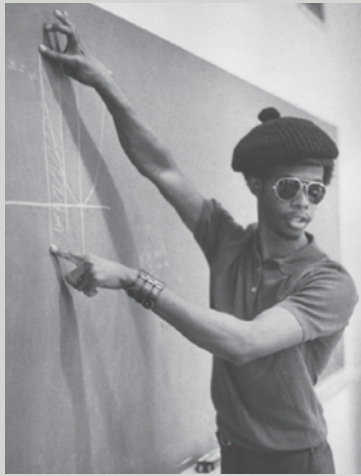
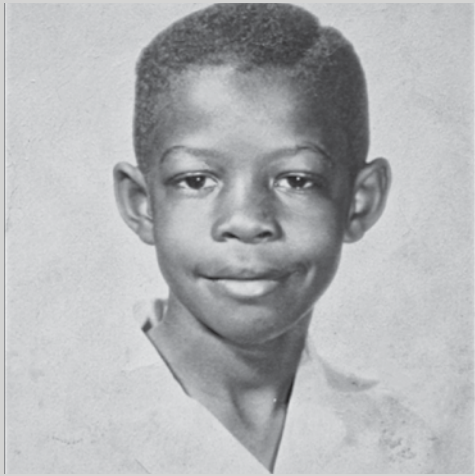
Gates joined the University of Maryland in 1984, and in 1998, was named the John S. Toll Professor of Physics – the first African-American to hold an endowed chair in physics at a major research university in the country. Gates still holds this position.

Throughout his career, Gates has written or co-written more than 120 research papers about mathematics and theoretical physics, and has been regularly featured on *NOVA*, a long-running Public Broadcasting Service series on science. In addition to his research, he is an advocate for education and breaking down the complexities of physics so everyone can understand. For instance, in 2006, Gates completed a DVD series consisting of 24 half-hour lectures that explain the complexities of unification theory.

Additional media appearances include the 2011 Isaac Asimov Memorial Debate hosted by Neil DeGrasse Tyson and the BBC Horizon documentary *The Hunt for Higgs* in 2012.

Gates has received many awards and honors, including being the first recipient of the 1994 American Physical Society's Edward A. Bouchet Award, earning the 2013 National Medal of Science, being appointed to President Barack Obama's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and being nominated by the Department of Energy as one of the USA Science and Engineering Festival's "Nifty Fifty" speakers.





A Brief History of Orange County Public Schools

Orange County Public Schools dates back to 1869. The state of Florida passed the first school law, which established Orange County as a school district, to be governed by an appointed board of three members and run by a superintendent.

W.C. Roper, A.C. Caldwell, and Zelotes Mason were the first board members, with W. A. Lovell serving as superintendent. Teachers were paid one dollar per month per student. The population of Orange County at the time was 2,195.



Automobiles first allowed to replace wagons for transporting students.

In the early 1900s, transportation became a major issue as the school board awarded bids to drivers who provided their own horses and wagons. In 1915, teacher Mattie Chapman became the first student transport driver to use an automobile, the likes of which gradually replaced wagons and horse teams throughout the district. In 1936, the district bought its first fleet of 30 steel school buses.

The population of Orange County continued to grow rapidly, from 70,074 in 1940 to more than 236,500 two decades later. Thousands of military personnel and their families moved into the area when Orlando became a major flight training ground for the Army Air Corps.

As the district grew, many of the original schools that current residents are familiar with were built – for example, Lake Como Elementary (1951); Jones High (1951); Wheatley Elementary (1951); Boone High (1952); Edgewater High (1952); Orlo Vista Elementary (1952); Dream Lake Elementary (1954); Glenridge Middle (1956); and Evans High (1958).

Exponential growth continued, and in the 1970s, more and more families and immigrants moved into Central Florida, bolstered by the development of Walt Disney World and other industries.

By 1980, the population of Orange County was about 458,000, a 33-percent increase from the previous decade. With 4,850 teachers serving 81,000 students, OCPS was the 28th-largest district in the nation. As the 20th century drew to a close, Orange County Public Schools continued its commitment to the

young people of Orange County. Programs expanded to include alternative education, bilingual programs, community education, extended-day enrichment programs, hearing and vision screenings, a hospital/homebound program, prekindergarten program, and preschool diagnostic and intervention services.

The district began actively recruiting parent volunteers and business partners to support our schools. The Foundation for Orange County Schools was created to help recruit, retain and recognize quality teachers



The Clear Lake School, as it was in 1891. Students were taught by Clara Ivey, pictured on the far right.

in the district. More recently, the school board adopted a Philanthropic Strategic Plan to raise money for unfunded programs that are proven to increase student achievement.

Currently, Orange County Public Schools is the 10th largest in the nation with more than 203,000 students, 188 schools and almost 24,000 employees. The district would not be where it is today without the support of the community. In 2002, after several failed attempts, voters approved a half-penny sales tax for the renovation of old schools and to support the construction of much-needed new schools. Thanks to that effort, and a renewal of the half-penny in 2014, all students in Orange County will have access to modern classrooms and technology.

The district's current vision is to become the top producer of successful students in the nation. The mission statement provides a roadmap of how we plan to get there: to lead our students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community. As Henry Ford wrote: "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself."



Orange County Public Schools Superintendents

W. A. Lovell
1869-1872

W. C. Roper
1873-1876

J. M. Burrell
1877-1878

J. T. Beeks
1879 - 1896

W. B. Lynch
1897-1910

J. M. McKinnon
1911-1916

A. B. Johnson
1917 - 1932

Judson B. Walker
1932-1956

R. Earl Kipp
1956-1965

W. O. Walker
1965-1966

Orville R. Davis
1966-1967

J. M. Higginbotham
1967-1972

D. P. Ney
1972-1973

Linton Deck
1973 -1980

James L. Schott
1980-1992

Donald Shaw
1992-1997

Dennis Smith
1997-2000

Ronald Blocker
2000-2012

Barbara M. Jenkins
2012-present

Hall of Fame Inaugural Class

Dick Batchelor
Evans High
Class of 1966

Johnny Damon
Dr. Phillips High
Class of 1992

Ericka Dunlap
Boone High
Class of 2000

Harris Rosen
Philanthropist

James "Chief" Wilson
Jones High
Evans High
Educator for 40 years

John Watts Young
Orlando High
Class of 1948



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Orange County Public Schools Hall of Fame inductees.*



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**Valencia College proudly
congratulates the Hall of Fame
Nominees as we celebrate 50 years
of educational partnership
with OCPS.**

Hall of Fame proceeds are used to support current and future Orange County Public Schools philanthropic priorities that ensure all children are ready to learn, improve academically, graduate on time and succeed after graduation. This year, proceeds will provide STEM enrichment for students experiencing poverty or homelessness.

www.ocps.net
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**Orange County
Public Schools**