

BOARD MEMBERS: Douglas J. Preisse, Chairman ★ Bradley K. Sinnott, Esq. ★ Kimberly E. Marinello ★ Michael E. Sexton

Edward J. Leonard, DIRECTOR David R. Payne, DEPUTY DIRECTOR

For Immediate Release
August 30, 2017

Media Contact:
Aaron Sellers, Public Information Officer
614-525-5351
amseller@vote.franklincountyohio.gov

Franklin County Board of Elections Wins another National Award

(Columbus) The Franklin County Board of Elections received national recognition last week for its partnership with Dublin City Schools' Postsecondary Readiness Exploration Program known as PREP. In an effort to assist young adult students with disabilities in preparing for the 2016 Presidential Elections, leaders of the program reached out to the Board of Elections to arrange a visit that would provide their students with a "first look" at the voting process.

That initial visit was such a huge success school officials and the Board of Elections discussed and implemented the idea of giving PREP students the opportunity to serve as Precinct Elections Officials during the 2016 November Presidential Election. "These authentic learning experiences cannot be created in a classroom, and are crucial to our students' preparation to play an active role as an adult in our community", said Becky Haselberger-PREP Program Instructor.

The Election Center, an organization that trains and certifies election administrators nationwide presented its "Professional Practices Independence" award to Franklin County for voting accessibility innovation. The award was presented at the Election Center's 32nd annual national conference in Garden Grove, California.

Steve Bulen, precinct election official manager, accepted the award for Professional Practices in Garden Grove last week. The PREP program joins two highly successful poll worker recruitment programs, Youth at the Booth and Champions of Democracy. These programs are crucial in filling the over 3,000 poll worker positions at voting locations across Franklin County on Election Day.

The Election Center conducts a Professional Practices contest annually to identify the best practices of local election officials and share them with election professionals nationwide.

To see more information on the Postsecondary Readiness Exploration Program please visit, <http://www.dublinschools.net/postsecondary.aspx>.

###