

Catherine Conlon Blackford

Cathy Blackford is executive director of the Builders Exchange of Central Ohio, a local trade association with 800 member firms involved in commercial construction, and executive director of The Builders Exchange Foundation. She joined the Builders Exchange staff in 1980 and held several positions – including director of education, director of membership services and assistant executive director – before being named executive director in 1994.



After spending her career in association management, Cathy has extensive experience in non-profit/not-for-profit volunteer motivation. Her passion is building strong and effective boards. She is proud of the fact that, during her BX tenure, seven of her employees have gone on to become executive directors of non-profit or not-for-profit organizations.

Cathy is a 1980 journalism graduate of The Ohio State University and has continued to be involved as an alumnus. She served two terms as a board member of the OSU Alumni Association Student Loan Foundation, represented the alumni association on the judging committee for the Ohio State Departmental Teaching Excellence Awards and was an alumni representative on The Ohio Union Council. Currently, she is on the advisory board of the Buckeye Leadership Fellows and represents the Office of Student Life on the Alumni Advisory Council of the Alumni Association.

A 1986 graduate of Leadership Columbus, Cathy served as president of the Leadership Columbus board of directors in 1997. She continues to participate annually as a facilitator in the “Columbus History” session for the current leadership class. In 2008, she was selected for the Leadership Columbus Hall of Fame for her contributions to the organization.

A past board member of the Ohio Society of Association Executives, Cathy holds the “Certified Association Executive” designation from the American Society of Association Executives. Her professional memberships include ASAE, OSAE, the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the International Builders Exchange Executives. In 2012, she was presented with the R. Thomas King Distinguished Service Award by OSAE, the organization’s highest individual honor.

Cathy served on the board of The Arlington Bank from 1999 to 2012 and is a past board member of the Boy Scouts of America Simon Kenton Council. She is an active member of the Charity Newsies and a volunteer at the Healthy Worthington Resource Center and Food Pantry.

Contact information:

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