

KELLY HOPSON '08

Non-traditional education success



Kelly Hopson

Kelly admits to being nervous about going back to college. Married and with one child, she had been providing daycare in her home, and her enjoyment in working with the children daily guided her decision to pursue a degree in early childhood education at Defiance College.

Being a non-traditional student wasn't easy, and this was compounded by the arrival of her second son in the middle of her studies. Kelly remembers going to education professor Fred Coulter saying, "I don't know if I can do this!" However, thanks to the flexibility of the professors and the support of DC's Center for Adult and Graduate Programs, she graduated with her B.S. in Education last May. In fact, she was selected to be a spokesperson for the adult program in a recent marketing campaign.

Now teaching kindergarten at Noble Elementary School in Defiance, Kelly says, "This is my dream! This is what I always wanted to do." She thinks the new all-day, every-day kindergarten format at Noble gives the teacher time to fit everything in, while leaving room for hands-on activities and fun. It gives the children a more consistent routine, Kelly states. "I feel they're achieving more."

Kelly credits her husband, Aaron, for his support and his willingness to take on extra work to help her reach her goal. She and Aaron, and sons, Alex and Konnor, live in Defiance.

"When people talk about a liberal arts education, where you prepare the whole person to think and problem-solve in many unique areas, that's the kind of preparation I needed to supervise disciplines in which I've had no training at all. It's very mind-expanding."

-- Dr. Don Ammons '71,
Teacher education alum

HONORARY DOCTORATE

Defiance College awards Dr. Robert Head '76 at the 2009 commencement ceremony

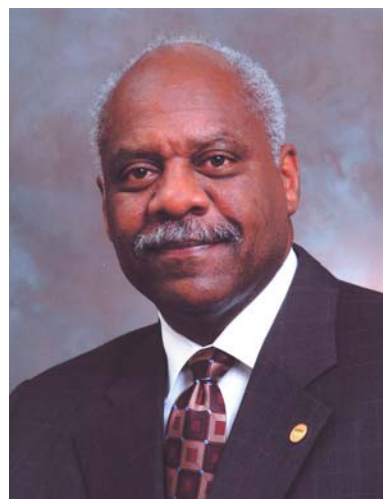
Dr. Robert L. Head '76 was recently named the 17th president of Rockford College in Illinois and was the 2009 Defiance College commencement speaker. Dr. Head's outstanding commitment to civic engagement and to the field of education was recognized by DC with the awarding of an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters during the ceremony.

Dr. Head has an impressive background which includes many years of experience in the banking industry. He served as vice-president, trust services at Toledo Trust Co., in Ohio, and vice-president, trust services at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago during the '80s and '90s.

The change to higher education came after a stint on the board of trustees at Defiance College. Dr. Head's first academic appointment was at Benedictine University, Lisle, Ill., where he was an associate

professor of business and vice-president of administration. Then, in 2001, he accepted the presidency at Urbana University in Ohio, a school similar to Rockford College with approximately 1,500 students.

At Urbana, Dr. Head is credited with increasing enrollment by 20 percent and doubling the residential population, attracting more international students to campus, expanding academic programs, creating partnerships with business and industry, and spearheading a successful \$6 million capital campaign for a new



Dr. Robert L. Head

student center, educational endowment, athletic stadium, and other campus improvements.

Dr. Head has a bachelor's degree in management from Defiance College; a master's in business administration from the University of Toledo; a master's in management and organizational behavior from Benedictine; and his doctorate in organization development, also from Benedictine. He also attended the Institute for Educational

Management at Harvard University.

Dr. Head and his wife, Sheryl, are active in the community of Rockford and have three grown children. ♦