The Board of Trustees of the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges (OFIC) unanimously elected E. Keith Hubbard ’57 a Life Trustee in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the board and to Ohio independent higher education. The presentation was made at OFIC’s annual meeting held recently at the Hyatt on Capitol Square in Columbus. New OFIC trustee Tom Hubbard accepted the award on behalf of his father.

The Life Trustee designation is reserved for OFIC trustees who have distinguished themselves by a high level of commitment to the organization over an extended period of time. During the 60 years since OFIC’s founding, the Life Trustee honor has been conferred upon only nine other individuals.

Keith Hubbard, chairman of the Hubbard Company in Defiance, has served OFIC as a trustee since 1986. Generous in his service to the organization’s mission, Hubbard has served on numerous committees and has been the regional campaign chair in the Defiance area since 1998. He was named OFIC’s Volunteer of the Year in 1993, and at the Foundation’s 2005 Evening of Excellence he was presented with the OFIC Lifetime Achievement Award.

OFIC is the primary corporate and foundation solicitation organization for 34 independent Ohio colleges and universities and operates one of the largest and most comprehensive scholarship management services in the state. OFIC member colleges collectively enroll 98,000 students and award one-third of all bachelor’s degrees in the state. Defiance College is a member college of OFIC.

Keith Hubbard, a native of Defiance and graduate of Defiance College, has shown a dedication to private higher education both through his service to his alma mater and his service to OFIC. He has served on the College’s Board of Trustees from 1981 to the present. He also served for eight years as the president and director of the College’s Alumni Association. In addition to his generous support of the College, he has helped students achieve their professional goals by sponsoring two endowed scholarships and offering internships to Defiance College students through The Hubbard Company.

In 1991, the Defiance Area Chamber of Commerce awarded Hubbard its most prestigious award for service leadership, the Leadership Award. Hubbard received this award for his service to the Defiance College Board of Trustees, the Defiance Hospital and other area health organizations, national and local business organizations and the Shawnee Council of the Boy Scouts. In 1998, Hubbard was awarded the Pilgrim Medal by Defiance College, the College’s highest award.

For the past 60 years the Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges has been a national leader in providing unrestricted donations and student scholarships through funds raised in annual solicitations from businesses, foundations, and other donors. OFIC promotes student diversity on its 34 member campuses through recruitment and retention programming and provides college readiness programming for underserved populations with a focus on workforce development.

OFIC connects students and alumni to career opportunities through one of Ohio’s largest career fairs, the OFIC CareerFest. The organization helps its campuses reduce operating expenses by coordinating group procurement programs and sponsors professional development programming for campus faculty and staff.

OFIC was founded in 1950 to conduct annual solicitations of companies and foundations to benefit private colleges in Ohio. Solicitation is conducted annually with the help of approximately 400 corporate and collegiate volunteers calling on companies and foundations headquartered or doing business in Ohio. OFIC raises both unrestricted and restricted gifts including scholarships and endowments. Unrestricted gifts are largely used for student financial aid.

Since 1982, Defiance College students have received more than $2 million in scholarship and unrestricted aid from OFIC. In the past year, 22 qualified DC students received a total of $53,930 in OFIC assistance.