

## Ham and Wolke honored at TACC banquet

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TROY — The winners of the A. Robert Davies M.D. Memorial Outstanding Young Man and Shirley Culp Davies Memorial Woman of the Year were rendered speechless at the annual Troy Area Chamber of Commerce annual award banquet at the Crystal Room on Thursday.

Lincoln Community Center executive director and 2013 recipient Shane Carter tapped city of Troy's special project manager Michael Ham as the 2014 A. Robert Davies M.D. Outstanding Young Man of the Year.

Carter quoted Ham's mentor Tom Dunn, Miami County Education Services superintendent, stating, "(Michael Ham) reminds those to whom he speaks of the importance of focusing on what a person can do rather than what he can't, of our responsibility of giving others every opportunity possible to succeed, of fighting through our challenges with dignity, and of not judging others based on biased perceptions. He reminds those who listen to him what an impact we can have on others by simply caring and investing in their success.

"Frankly, (Michael Ham) has greater courage and grace than I could ever hope for. As his mentor, I imagine I was supposed to inspire him, but the fact is, he inspired me. He inspired me to be a better person, and he inspired me to be a better educator. He reminded me what matters in this life, and what an impact adults can have on children's lives if we focus on the things that matter and don't allow ourselves to be distracted by all the white noise."

As chamber members applauded, Carter presented Ham with the Outstanding Young Man award for 2014.

"Anyone who knows me knows it's hard to make me speechless, but you all did a good job," Ham said. "I can't tell you how honored I am with this award. One of the things I've always believed is to whom much is given, much is expected.

"I have been given — by my mother and by some of the greatest gentlemen who have ever breathed, three of whom are here tonight — the greatest start in life that anyone could have gotten.

"I can only hope I can do as much for Troy in the future as they have done, not only for this community, but for me as well. Thank you," said Ham as the crowd gave him a standing ovation.

Mary Wolke, a community volunteer and former Troy City Schools educator was named 2014 Shirley Culp Davies Memorial Outstanding Young Woman of the Year award by friend and fellow recipient Heidi Scribner.

Wolke thanked her family and her husband Bill Wolke, for the honor. Wolke was recognized for her tireless efforts helping children "achieve, exceed and excel" in the Troy community. Scribner said Wolke works around the clock as a member of Miami County CASA/GAL, school and organization's fundraiser boards and spends hours helping local children in and out of the classroom.

Pat Keaty, 2014 chairman of the board, passed the gavel on to the 2015 chairman Jon Dankworth. Dankworth urged chamber members to utilize the chamber's resources and provide feedback for the chamber to continue to grow in the future.

Keaty also recognized financial and operations manager Joan Thayer and member services and event coordinator Heather Littlejohn for their hard work and dedication during the transitional year. Keaty also thanked Mayor Michael Beamish for listening to the chamber's needs and requests to expand the 2014 Troy Strawberry Festival to the downtown public square.

Keaty also recognized board members Larry Smith and Greg Taylor for their service during their time on the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce board. Smith and Taylor's terms expired on Dec. 31, 2014.

For more information about the Troy Area Chamber of Commerce events and community resources, visit [www.troyohiochamber.com](http://www.troyohiochamber.com)

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