

I AM JEFF BRANTNER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE OHIO LIONS FOUNDATION, AND IT IS MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT THIS YEAR'S OHIO LIONS FOUNDATION HELEN KELLER SCHOLARSHIPS AT OSU.

FIRST, BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU A LITTLE ABOUT OUR ORGANIZATION. THE OHIO LIONS FOUNDATION IS A CHARITABLE FOUNDATION FORMED IN 1985 AND IS SUPPORTED BY THE APPROXIMATELY 18,000 MEMBERS OF LIONS CLUBS IN OHIO. THE LIONS OF OHIO ARE PART OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL WHICH IS THE WORLD'S LARGEST SERVICE ORGANIZATION WITH 1.3 MILLION MEMBERS WORLDWIDE.

OUR SCHOLARSHIP IS VERY APPROPRIATELY NAMED AFTER HELEN KELLER WHO IN 1925 ADDRESSED THE LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN CEDAR POINT, OHIO, AND CHALLENGED THE LIONS TO BECOME "KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND IN THE CRUSADE AGAINST DARKNESS." FROM THIS TIME, THE LIONS CLUBS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN SERVICE TO THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED.

THE OHIO LIONS FOUNDATION HELEN KELLER SCHOLARSHIP WAS STARTED IN 1989 WITH A SINGLE SCHOLARSHIP AT OSU. THE VERY FIRST RECIPIENT WAS SHERRI HUFFMAN OF BRYAN OHIO WHO AS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW AFTER GRADUATING FROM OSU WAS VERY INVOLVED IN THE OFFICE OF DISABILITY SERVICES. TODAY THE SCHOLARSHIP HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO A TOTAL OF TEN (11) ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS: OSU (4), OU,(1) BGSU (1) CSU (1), WSU (2), YSU (1) AND UC(1), THROUGH JUNE 2007, A TOTAL OF \$317,000 HAS BEEN AWARDED STATE WIDE.

WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THE DEDICATION AND ACADEMIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OUR SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS. PRIOR RECIPIENTS AT OSU HAVE INCLUDED STUDENTS MAJORING IN ELECTRICAL

ENGINEERING, VETERINARY MEDICINE, NURSING, MUSIC EDUCATION,
SPECIAL EDUCATION, SPANISH, FINANCE, ARTS AND SCIENCE,
COMMUNICATIONS, MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER INFORMATION SCIENCE,
AND PSYCHOLOGY.