



News

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Ohio State ATI Commencement set for June 13

(Wooster, Ohio) May 29, 2009 – The Ohio State University Agricultural Technical Institute will confer 164 degrees and certificates to graduates at its 36th commencement exercises on Saturday, June 13 at 11 a.m. at Fisher Auditorium.

This year's commencement speaker is Dr. Daniel Garrison, director emeritus of Ohio State ATI. Garrison is a pioneer in the field of technical agriculture education. A Navy veteran with a background in agriculture, marketing and management, Dr. Garrison became the department chairman of the first two-year agriculture program in Ohio at Clark State Community College in Springfield. While at Springfield, he earned a Ph.D. in higher education administration from The Ohio State University.

In 1972, Dr. Garrison joined Dr. Jerry Halterman at the newly-formed Ohio State ATI, which held its first classes that year on the campus of OARDC while ATI's classroom building was under construction. Dr. Garrison served as assistant director for academic affairs and was charged with establishing an internship program, developing curriculum, and scheduling. The internship program remains today one of the hallmarks of an ATI education.

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In 1979, Dr. Garrison succeeded Dr. Halterman as director upon Halterman's retirement. Dr. Garrison served as director until 1992, leading ATI through some notable achievements, including its first accreditation, its first group of faculty being granted tenure, its 100th graduate, and the development of several new degree programs.

Dr. Garrison is a past member of Wooster Rotary, a life member of The Ohio State University Alumni Association, and a life member of the National Association of AE Officers and Sailors, an organization for officers and sailors who served aboard U.S. Navy ammunition ships during war time. Dr. Garrison served 36 months at sea aboard the U.S.S. Mount Baker during the Korean Conflict. He is also a member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion.

Currently, Dr. Garrison is a board member and treasurer of the Wayne County Historical Society and a board member and co-treasurer of the Garrison Corner Historical Cemetery at Blanchester.

He is past chair of the board of the Wooster Area Chamber of Commerce and remains involved with the organization.

Dr. Garrison and his wife, Betty, are actively involved with their two daughters, sons-in-law, and four grandchildren, all of whom live in the Wooster area.

Ohio State ATI, located in Wooster, Ohio, is ranked number one in the nation in the awarding of associate degrees in agriculture and related sciences. It is an associate degree-granting program within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences at The Ohio State University. Students participate in a curriculum that includes general and basic studies, hands-on experience and a paid industry internship. Ohio State ATI is the largest institution of its kind in the U.S., enrolling approximately 800 students and offering 29 programs of study. Ohio State

ATI maintains a 99 percent job placement rate for all graduates within four months of graduation.