

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 7, 2019

Contact: J.C. Benton, 614.995.7520

J.C.Benton@ofcc.ohio.gov

## OFCC Chief of Planning Bestowed Lifetime Achievement Award

*Melanie Drerup recognized for making significant contributions in educational facility planning in Ohio*

Melanie Drerup, Chief of Planning for the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission (OFCC), has been given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Association for Learning Environments. She was recently recognized at the organization's national conference in Anaheim.



The Association for Learning Environments is a professional association that works to improve education by influencing the planning, designing, creating, equipping and maintaining of the physical environment for student learning. The Lifetime Achievement Award is the most distinguished professional award bestowed an association member. It was created to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves by making significant and lasting contributions to the educational facility planning industry throughout their career. Drerup is only the 4<sup>th</sup> woman to win the prestigious award since its inception in 1967.

“Melanie Drerup has demonstrated a lifetime commitment to improving the learning environments in our state,” said OFCC Interim Executive Director Jon Walden. “Through her creativity, innovation and problem solving, she has helped change the educational outcome for hundreds of thousands of students.”

Drerup has worked with the state's K-12 school facilities program for 25 years as a state employee and an additional four years in the private sector. During that time, she has either directly assisted in the planning of, or overseen the development and planning of hundreds of student-centered school facility plans for Ohio districts.

Melanie has been a leading advocate for the use of specialized design techniques that promote student safety and environmental sustainability. She has been a major factor in the adoption of “Educational Visioning,” a method of integrating the district's educational program into the design of the building and moving towards high performance learning environments. Drerup was also among the original authors of the *Ohio School Design Manual* and later developed the *Ohio Planning Guide* to help school district personnel understand the entire planning process.

The Ohio Facilities Construction Commission is responsible for guiding capital projects for state agencies, state-supported universities and community colleges, and Ohio's comprehensive public K-12 school construction and renovation program. The Commission's vision is to be the premier resource for public facilities construction in Ohio.

-30-

Editor's note— A headshot of Melanie Drerup can be obtained by calling 614.995.7520 or [j.c.benton@ofcc.ohio.gov](mailto:j.c.benton@ofcc.ohio.gov)