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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Summit County Board Member Honored By Ohio Developmental Disabilities Agency**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Bill Ginter received high praises from the superintendent of the Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities as he received the *Distinguished Service Award* at the at the *Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB) 27TH ANNUAL CONVENTION* held at the *Easton Hilton* Dec. 1-3.

“Never has anyone been more deserving of this award than Bill Ginter,” said Tom Armstrong, superintendent of the *Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities*. “If Bill were a professional athlete, sports announcers would refer to him as a ‘game changer’.”

Armstrong extolled the virtues of Ginter, noting Ginter’s daughter Laura has shaped many of his interests and allowed him to serve the citizens of Summit County with great compassion.

“Bill’s mantra has been that our Board and its employees have the ability to greatly impact families’ lives, and we need to support them with a life of empowerment, dignity and joy,” Armstrong said.

Ginter acknowledged that in the 10 years he has served on the *Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities*, he has witnessed a “professional team that has done an outstanding job.”

“It is more than an honor to be recognized for the work my wife Marie and I have done,” Ginter said, noting the Board and Staff are always looking for ways to make the services they provide better.

“We have many stakeholders, but only one client – the person with developmental disabilities and their families,” he said. “If you do something right, it can have a profoundly positive effect on someone’s life. The opposite of that is also true, unfortunately.”

The *Distinguished Service Award* began in 2006. Each year, three Board Members are recognized. There are 616 *County Board of Developmental Disabilities* members in Ohio’s 88 counties. Board members are nominated and chosen for their outstanding service and commitment to their local *County Board of Developmental Disabilities*.

“These volunteer Board members are the backbone of every agency across the state that helps individuals with developmental disabilities,” said Dan Ohler, *OACB* Executive Director. “Without their guidance, experience and wisdom, the 85,000 people we serve would not have their abilities and programs they enjoy today.”

The *OACB* is celebrating its 27th year of operation. Its mission is to “support *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in providing services and supports to individuals with disabilities.”

All 88 *County Boards of Developmental Disabilities* in Ohio are members of this organization whose purpose is to educate and advocate for the 85,000 individuals with developmental disabilities who reside in the Buckeye State.

**CUTLINE:**

**Bill Ginter, second from left, is pictured with Dan Ohler, OACB Executive Director; Tom Armstrong, superintendent of the Summit County Board of Developmental Disabilities; and John Martin, Director of the Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.**

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