



2003-12-10

**Media Contact:** Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, 330-941-3285 or [racole.01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole.01@ysu.edu).

## Superintendent-to-be receives doctorate from YSU

Dec. 10, 2003

Superintendent-to-be receives doctorate from YSU

As an educator with a background in library science, Wendy Webb was never concerned that much with history.

In the next few months, however, she's going to be making a lot of it herself.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 14 in Beeghly Center, Webb will graduate from Youngstown State University with a doctorate in educational administration, making her the first African-American ever to earn a doctoral degree from YSU.

Then in June 2004, Webb will become the first woman superintendent of the Youngstown City School District, replacing the retiring Benjamin L. McGee.

"I wanted to model to teachers and to others that professional growth is important," Webb, 50, said about getting her doctorate. "A lot of people say it is, but do not do anything about it.

"I wanted to show people that I just wasn't talking about it. I was believing it and living it."

Webb, currently assistant superintendent of the city schools, said she feels she has the right combination of skills and background to lead the largest school district in the Mahoning and Shenango valleys.

"I have a good grasp on the community, and I think I have a good grasp on the best practices for instruction," she said. "I love the challenge of being in an urban district. I love talking to people. I love encouraging people. I have a burning passion to see kids in the Youngstown city schools improve academically."

Webb has worked all over the Youngstown school district, including stints at South, Chaney and Rayen high schools, mostly as a librarian. Previous to being named assistant superintendent six years ago, she was director of instruction and curriculum for five years.

Webb, the great-great granddaughter of Plimpton Ross Berry, a prominent local architect who helped construct most of the original buildings in Youngstown, grew up on Youngstown's South Side and graduated from South High School in 1971.

On the advice of her mother, Webb went to Kent State University, where she received both her undergraduate and master's degrees. During her freshman year at Kent, her father became ill.

"I really wasn't planning to come back to Youngstown, but I needed to come home and help my mom take care of my dad," Webb said.

Webb, who raised two foster children, spends part of her free time running a health club out of her garage.

The club, called Soul Stretch, meets for an hour, three times a week and is equipped with stationary bikes, steps and free weights. She estimates that 3,000 to 4,000 women have been through the club in its 24 years of existence.

"It's part of taking care of ourselves as women and relieving stress," she said.

Webb also enjoys reading, is a huge fan of "Winnie the Pooh" and is also a part-time storyteller. She has even written a few of her own children's books. One of the books she hopes to get published is "My Militant Mom and My Cool Dad George," a book based on her parents.

"My mom was so energetic and ready for every cause while my dad was always the calming factor," Webb said.

She added: "The more you learn, the more you really realize how much you don't know. What learning is really about is reaching out and helping others construct meaningful ways to learn and improve the quality of their lives."

-30-

[Back](#)

[Top](#)

### **Faculty member named associate dean**

Dr. Ted Bosela, a member of YSU's engineering technology faculty since 1989, has been appointed associate dean of the Rayen College of Engineering and Technology at YSU. Bosela has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from YSU, a master's in electrical engineering from the University of Akron and a doctorate in electrical engineering from the University of Pittsburgh. He was senior electrical engineer at Schneider Engineers Inc. in Bridgeville, Pa., before joining YSU's faculty in 1989. He is the author of a textbook titled "Introduction to Electrical System Design." Annual Half-Time Havoc scheduled for Feb. 15 The YSU Student Programming Board sponsors the third annual Half-Time Havoc, a sports competition for faculty, staff and students on Saturday, Feb. 15 at Beeghly Center. The competition at halftime of the men's basketball game against UW-Milwaukee, will feature a relay race. The basketball game begins at 7 p.m. Registration deadline is 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 12, for teams to participate.