

Distinguished Alumni Awards 2023

Durand Area Schools



Clark Harder, Class of '73



Clark Harder has been selected for the Distinguished Alumni Award for career advancement, dedicated service, and cultural enrichment.

- Known throughout the community for his leadership and volunteerism over the past 50 years since his graduation from Durand.
- Began career in radio announcing while still in high school. Earned a B.A. degree from Michigan State University, studying Journalism, History, Political Science, TV & Radio.
- Entered the political arena in 1985 as a staffer for the Michigan Speaker of the House, later becoming Chief Legislative Aide for State Representative Spaniola.
- Elected in 1990 as State Representative/Legislator and was re-elected 3 times. Held assignments in advancing transportation, education, senior citizen and retirement, agriculture, mental health, & tourism.
- Has served since 1999 as Executive Director of the Michigan Public Transit Association. Provides urban and rural transportation advice, education, and consulting.
- Conceived of and developed Rides to Wellness, a non-emergency medical transportation program which has spread statewide and been replicated in other states. The programs have brought transportation access to thousands needing access to medical treatment.
- Has a long history of volunteer leadership and service with the Durand Union Station, American Cancer Society, Shiawassee Arts Council, and other local causes.
- Has earned and received the Shiawassee Legend Award, plus multiple awards from the Democratic Party, the Michigan Municipal League, the Henry Ford Museum, the Michigan Manufacturers Association, the Michigan Farm Bureau, and Lansing Community College.