Professor Erwin C. Vernon commenced his affiliation with Sinclair Community College in 1972 as the second faculty member in the Data Processing Program. He was, during his entire tenure with the College, a major force and substantial contributor to the development of this program. Mr. Vernon has been characterized as a "pioneer" in the computer information systems field. He was a member of the team of national experts that developed COBOL, the common business oriented computer language in the early 1960's. His expertise and excellent professional reputation in the computer field enabled him to contribute substantially to several professional organizations with national scope and focus. These included, primarily, the Association of Computing Machinery and the Data Processing Management Association (DPMA). He served influentially on the DPMA Committee that designed a standardized curriculum for the Associate Degree in Computer Information Systems. Additionally, he established himself as an outstanding reviewer of computer reference and textbooks for several publishing companies.

Mr. Vernon was always held in high esteem by his peers and his students. He was characterized by one of his colleagues as "first and foremost, a person who cares." He cares about the College as an institution, he cares about the students he teaches, and he cares about his profession. Also, his relationships with fellow instructors has been exemplary. Another colleague indicates that Mr. Vernon has always maintained a highly positive attitude toward his work and toward life in general and that he has always "given" 110% to his students and to the College in terms of his energies, his interest and his level of commitment.

The esteem with which Mr. Vernon is held by Sinclair Community College and the many contributions he has made to this institution certainly warrants recognition and establishes him as a truly outstanding candidate for receipt of emeritus honors.