Curtis Barnes taught Art at Sinclair from 1977 until his retirement in 1994. During these 17 years, Curtis was an energetic and inspirational teacher who encouraged his students to put forth their best effort. One former student captured the essence of the impact that he had on students by stating, “Curtis Barnes was nothing but encouraging... like sunshine on a plant”.

Professor Barnes made significant contributions to the Art Department, the college, and the community. At Sinclair, he was a master teacher who taught classes in Drawing, Painting, Studio Art, Art Appreciation, and he developed an African Art course which was one of the first video courses created at Sinclair. For many years, Curtis was the coordinator of the art gallery in the Learning Resources Center; curating, hanging, and dismantling the shows single-handedly. He was the founder of the student art club, Studio Sinclair, which was very active in the late 1980s and early 1990s. In addition, he was art gallery coordinator for the Citizens’ Federal Building.

Respect for Curtis Barnes’ artwork went beyond the Art Department at Sinclair. In the late 1980s, he was honored to be selected to participate in a group show at the Dayton Art Institute.

Currently, his artwork adorns the lobby of Building 7 and the office of the Dean of Fine and Performing Arts at Sinclair. Indicative of his generosity, these artworks were given as gifts to the college.

Since retiring, Curtis continues to work as a creative artist, maintaining a studio on East Third Street in Dayton, and he is actively involved in the African-American Visual Artists Guild. As a member of the guild, Curtis was a presenter in day long workshops in November 1996 and January 1997 at Sinclair which involved young people in the creation of artworks. In the fall of 1997, Mr. Barnes was a guest speaker at Sinclair for Phi Theta Kappa students on the topic, “Landscape of Arts”.

As a result of his many years of outstanding service and contributions to the field of Art at Sinclair Community College and the Dayton community, Professor Curtis Barnes is most deserving of the title, Professor Emeritus.