Professor Laurel Mayer taught at Sinclair Community College for 24 years, from 1989 to 2013. Laurel Mayer is truly a one-of-a-kind educator and person. He is extremely engaged in his career and personal endeavors. He is a strong supporter of the mission of the college (including fundraising, campaigning and mentoring); and his encouragement, development, initiatives and leadership shines through. Laurel’s day to day activities allow him to develop strong bonds among his colleagues and peers. During his tenure at Sinclair Laurel developed innovative programs, provided faculty leadership and, most importantly, facilitated exceptional student learning through his meritorious teaching.

In 1988 (as an adjunct), he took over the Geography program (the cognate area in his Ph.D. studies) when no one else was available to cover the classes. At the end of the academic year, he was teaching all of the Geography offerings. In the next year he became our only full-time Political Science instructor, teaching U.S. Government, State Government and International Relations classes. Under his direction the Political Science program grew in course offerings, FTEs, and the recruitment and development of quality adjunct instructors to cover the expanded offerings.

As an educator, he is eager to help coordinate and facilitate workshops on-campus, off-campus and at national conferences. This allows him to strengthen and develop his teaching skills to the number of students that take his PLS 1120 (American Federal Government) and PLS 2200 (Political Life) courses. His syllabus, course material, textbook and supplemental aspects engage the students and provide a bigger picture of the nature of these courses. He brings real-life into the classroom and encourages his students in their career paths. He joined the initial cadre of Sinclair instructors in developing PACE (Program for Adult Continuing Education) Program. This program provided multi-discipline courses to adults learners needing courses to complete their college programs.

In order to create a better focused textbook for his political life course and reduce the textbook cost to students (which had risen to over $120) in 2009 he developed an in house textbook. By working with the bookstore to obtain permission to reprint low cost key chapters, locate non-copyright government documents, and incorporating worksheets and other materials he developed over the years, he compiled a comprehensive Political Life textbook which is now printed in house and sells in the Sinclair Bookstore for under $22.
In an effort to support student growth Laurel mentored through Dayton Public Schools “Lincoln Scholars as well as the Urban African-American Mentoring Program (UAAMP). He also supported the Senior to Sophomores (“S2S”) program and regularly offered honors options in his classes. Laurel has always been a strong supporter and motivator for Sinclair students. Students often sought him out for letters of recommendation. A noteworthy example is when was asked to write a letter of recommendation for a graduating PLS student to go to Columbia University (where she was accepted) and then to support a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship (which she also earned) and is now a graduate of Columbia.

He was an active member of the International Education Committee during his 24 years (including two as chair); and as a faculty member who promoted international education - including regular presentations during Global Awareness Week Programs. He also presented a paper at a European Union Conference on “citizenship” and was a panelist on an international panel held in Porto, Portugal. He was among the first U.S. college/university professors to participate in a National Science Foundation sponsored course on Foreign Affairs held at the Chinese Foreign Affair College in Beijing.

Laurel’s leadership role at Sinclair has brought a lot to the Political Sciences Department. He has not only been a Political Science discipline coordinator (managing PLS course, textbooks and adjunct staffing and issues); but he has also been Departmental Chairperson for years; served two Interim Departmental Chairperson duties; and has served as a Faculty Senator and Vice President. These roles, in addition to other positions he has held representing Sinclair on-campus and off-campus, bring groups together that are supportive of college initiatives. That level of commitment and desire has enabled him to be recognized internally and externally on a number of occasions.

After his 30-year career in the U.S. Air Force and retiring as a Colonel he came to Sinclair to continue his service to the community and country. Laurel brought all of his great experience as well as his kindness, sincerity, thoughtfulness and genuine personality to his positions at the college. The honor of Professor Emeritus is greatly deserved with the backing of the many of him colleagues and former students.