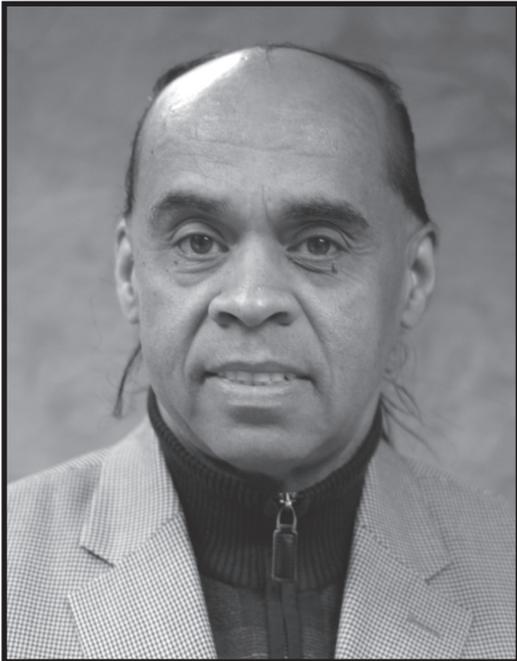


## Cultural Awareness Award

*Award criteria: The recipient selected in this category has demonstrated an appreciation for diversity and evidenced skill in building and maintaining harmonious cross-cultural relationships. The recipient's achievements foster Dr. King's vision of unity among people of diverse cultural backgrounds.*



### **John Upshaw**

*Lima*

John Upshaw is special assistant and chief diversity officer for the Office of Institutional Diversity at The Ohio State University at Lima. He also has been a volunteer for more than 20 years with various cultural awareness activities and groups. His activities include volunteering with youth and promoting domestic violence awareness.

According to his nominator, "Mr. Upshaw is an advocate for cultural awareness and diversity and making sure that OSU Lima has underrepresented people working on the Lima campus."

At OSU Lima, Upshaw leads the charge of creating a culture of diversity as it relates to the university mission. He employs practices to assist with increasing the number of underrepresented students, faculty and staff. He also works to

create diversity awareness and engagement initiatives and to develop partnerships with minority-owned and women-owned businesses.

Upshaw also is the founder and administrator of College Level Intervention For Freshman Success (CLIFFS). The goal of the CLIFFS Summer Bridge Program is to create a seamless transition to college for incoming freshman. He also is the advisor for the Multicultural and LGBTQA student clubs on campus.

Upshaw's work with the Lima Family YMCA Black Achievers program lead to OSU Lima being recognized as the volunteer organization of the year twice, and he received the individual Volunteer of the Year Award in 2010. He serves on the program's steering committee.

Upshaw's other community involvement includes serving as a facilitator for STRIVE – Students Teaching Relationship Intervention through Violence Education via Crossroads Crisis Center, Inc., a domestic violence shelter in Lima. He also is a facilitator for the Positive Lifestyles Career Program of the Lima City Schools and serves on the Allen County Museum and Historical Society board and the Men Choosing Nonviolence Committee through the Partnership for Violence Free Families.