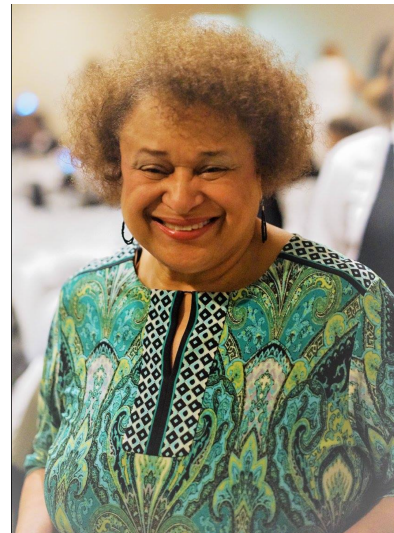




Inspiring Tomorrow's Workforce: A Thank You to Edith Suttles

As a high school student in 1961, Edith Suttles heard President John F. Kennedy challenge the youth of America in his inauguration speech when he said, "Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country." Those words echoed in Edith's heart throughout her life and have guided her decades of service to Capital Area Michigan Works!. Edith understands the importance of teaching today's talent so they will thrive in tomorrow's workforce, which is why we were honored to name her as a CAMW! Workforce Champion in 2022, and share her story this Women's History Month.

Edith is the owner of Diversified Environmental Services, and she's been committed to our region's youth through her service on the Waverly School Board, a position she held for over 20 years. Among the many community volunteer boards Edith served on, she dedicated her time and talent to CAMW!'s Workforce Development Board, and in various iterations of the region's Career Education Advisory Council. Edith is one of CAMW!'s longest-serving board and CEAC members, with over decades of service.



Edith's passion to serve as a voice for youth and education has been at the forefront of her efforts. She has been a tireless supporter and Founding Chair of the T3 Council (Teach. Talent. Thrive.), a network of partners in Michigan's capital region who support talent development by ensuring all students are reading at grade level in the third grade and increasing high school graduation rates to ensure all students are college and career ready and CEAC for the region.

Along with her service as co-chair of T3, Edith was one of the driving forces behind MiCareerQuest Capital Area, an employer-driven, student-focused, hands-on career awareness event providing thousands of the region's seventh through 10th graders the opportunity to engage with employers. The event exposed students to a variety of occupations and career pathways in the Lansing region and showed them how their passions and interests aligned with a future job.



To honor her work with CAMW!, Edith received the Leonard Peters Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013. The award was established in recognition of those who have given a lifetime of outstanding service to CAMW!.



Edith Suttles receives the Leonard Peters Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

In 2021, Edith received the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Michigan Works! Association at its Annual Conference, recognizing Edith for her efforts building a community committed to lifelong learning. Edith's impact has inspired the next generation of our workforce and has given them the necessary tools to build a stronger and more talented region.

After decades of dedication to the entire Michigan Works! system, Edith stepped away from her positions as co-chair of T3 and board member of CAMW!'s Workforce Development Board at the end of 2022.

Edith, thank you for all you do! Your voice, input and leadership have made CAMW! a stronger agency, and we are so thankful for your support, guidance and positive spirit. We are honored to celebrate you this Women's History Month, and every month. Your quiet strength, calming presence, passion for equity, and guiding wisdom are already missed on our boards, but called upon frequently. Thank you for all you've done for CAMW!, and our team. Your legacy to education and workforce is an inspiration.