

Biography of Daniel M. Rice

Daniel M. Rice is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition, headquartered in Akron, Ohio.

The Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (OECC) is the regional non-profit organization working for the conservation, development and interpretation of the natural, historical and recreational resources along the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway from Cleveland to New Philadelphia, Ohio. Since 1994, Mr. Rice has worked with over 150 community partnerships and raised over \$75 million in development funds for the preservation of historic structures, the development of the 101-mile multi-use Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and the conservation of natural resources along the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway.

Mr. Rice is a native of Ohio, with a B.A. in history from the College of Wooster and M.A. in American History from the University of Akron. Upon receipt of his M.A., Dan worked as Curator of Interpretation for the Summit County Historical Society, where he was responsible for the preservation and conservation of over 250,000 artifacts, development of interpretive exhibits, and educational programming.

Mr. Rice is associated with numerous professional organizations within and outside the field of heritage development. He played a key role in the organization of the Alliance of National Heritage Areas in 1997, served as Chairman of this national organization from 1997-2001 and Chairman of Heritage Development Institute Committee. Mr. Rice has served on numerous state and non-profit boards and committees including, Ohio Heritage Area Partnership, Ohio Department of Natural Resources Canal Lands Advisory Committee, Board Member and Chair of the Canton/Stark County Convention & Visitors Bureau, Board Member and Chair of Leadership Akron Alumni, University of Akron Dean's Council, Hale Farm Advisory Committee, Ohio-To-Erie Trail Board and the Ohio Greenway Advisory Committee. Currently Mr. Rice serves as a member of the Development Finance Authority, Summit County, District 8 and District 14 Natural Resource Assistance Committee for Clean Ohio, Cuyahoga Falls Planning Commission Chair, Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Commission and Summit Lake Community Development Corporation. In 1996, Mr. Rice received the National Conservation Partnership Award from the National Park Service and he is a 1999 graduate from the Leadership Akron program. In 2003, Mr. Rice received the Kodak American Greenways Award for his accomplishments, leadership and support for greenways, trails and heritage areas in Ohio and across the country. In 2004, Mr. Rice received the Urban Light Recipient award from The University of Akron and served as the opening speaker for the 28th Akron Roundtable series in Akron, Ohio and is a member of 2008 Leadership Cleveland Class. In April 2009, Mr. Rice was awarded the Congressman John and Betty Seiberling Award by the Sierra Club-Portage Trail Chapter. In 2010, Mr. Rice received Scenic Ohio Award and in 2012, Mr. Rice received the Chairman's Award from the Akron-Summit County Convention and Visitors Bureau for his work on the Ohio & Erie Canalway and Towpath Trail. In 2013, The Canal Society of Ohio awarded Mr. Rice the 2014 Historic Preservation Award for his work along the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area. Mr. Rice has consulted with numerous organizations across the country including, Michigan, New York, Louisiana, North Carolina, Wyoming, Montana, Arizona, Hawaii, Georgia, Ohio, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Iowa, Alabama, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. As a leader in the Heritage Development movement, Mr. Rice has provided technical assistance to organizations on organizational development, building public/private partnerships, fundraising strategies, management plans, and government relations.

Mr. Rice is married to Nancy Neagoy Rice and lives in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio with their daughter Rachael.