

Sam R. Barnes

Class of 1989

Sam Barnes graduated from Hanover-Horton High School and then attended Jackson Community College, an accessible and affordable start to his higher education.

He transferred to the University of Michigan to continue his studies in mechanical engineering. He earned his BSME and MBA with distinction from the University of Michigan.

When Barnes transferred to Michigan, he felt just as prepared as students who started at four-year institutions.

He proudly served his country as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves from 1986-'92.

He is a registered professional engineer in three states.

As a way of giving back to his alma mater, he served on the Jackson College Board of Trustees for 15 years. He served as board chair from 2013-'22. During his years of service, the campus saw several building and renovation projects, initiatives such as the addition of student success navigators, and creation of Health Clinic, Oasis Center and Dental Clinic.

He considers the establishment of Jackson Preparatory and Early College (JPEC) one of the most significant accomplishments of his tenure on the board, improving dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.

Barnes has enjoyed a distinguished career in engineering, spending many years with Commonwealth Associates, Inc. of Jackson as chief operating officer and board member.

Late in 2023, he relocated to Cleveland, Ohio to become president and chief executive officer of Middough Inc., an engineering design and consulting firm with offices throughout the Midwest.

Barnes has been a member of the Cascades Lions Club since 1998, serving terms as president, secretary, and board member. He continues his membership of Lions Club International.

He has served on the Jackson Symphony Orchestra Board as the chair, represented Jackson College on the board of The Dahlem Conservancy, and is a lifetime member of the NAACP.

He is married to wife, Rachel, and is the father of three children, all of whom have attended Jackson College. They have two grandchildren.

