Mike Matthews received the National Humanities Educator Award from the Community College Humanities Association in 2011. Retired from Tarrant County College, he spent 42 to years as an educator in posts such as Associate Professor of English on Northeast Campus and as Dean of Humanities on Northwest Campus. Recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Exemplary Teaching and winner of the national service award from the Two-Year College English Association in 2010, he has held numerous positions in professional organizations, such as Chair of the NCTE College Forum.

A supporter of the performing and visual arts, Mike encourages the collecting of art, especially through non-profit auctions and charitable giving as evidenced in the "Mike Matthews and Gloria Mills Permanent Collection of Student Works" that can be viewed on the 4th floor of the Northwest Campus WTLO Building. He endowed the "Mike Matthews Fine Arts Scholarship at Tarrant County College" for students taking courses in dance, drama, music, and the visual arts. A collector of art, including works purchased from the previous HWNT auction, Mike firmly believes that everyone should buy and collect art to beautify their homes and to enrich their lives.