

Leadership Award for Exemplary Teachers Legacy Statement

After beginning her career as a classroom teacher, the donor earned her M.Ed. in Special Education and then worked as a special education resource consultant for more than 10 years before moving into central office administration. While serving as a resource consultant and later as a district administrator, she realized how much she loved the broader impact she could have by working with the adults who work with children.

Once she relocated to Fort Collins, CO, the time was right to enter the doctoral program in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at UNC. At her core, she believed increasing teachers' abilities and skills in seeing beyond the four walls of their classrooms made them both better educators and contributing leaders. Giving teachers new opportunities to lead helped them improve their schools and districts and helped keep them from career burnout. However, she knew that it took courage for teachers to move into leadership roles due to the unspoken "norm of equality" among educators. She pursued this interest by writing her dissertation on teacher leadership and earned her doctorate in 1997.

Empowering educators to feel proud of themselves as teachers and as leaders is the underlying rationale for this scholarship, which supports educators who maintain one foot in the classroom and the other in the broader arena of their schools, districts or beyond.

While she acknowledges her journey did not begin at UNC, she believes her professors and the education she received at UNC propelled her into a career she never could have imagined. From her deep gratitude came the inspiration and drive to continue supporting teacher leaders through this scholarship fund.