



The Barbara Taylor Distinguished Service Award

In September 2011, the board of directors of the North Carolina Conference of English instructors voted to rename the organization's distinguished service award the Barbara Taylor Distinguished Service Award. The award is given each year to a member of NCCEI based on contribution to the organization:

"noteworthy service to CEI as a member of the Board of Directors; special service in support of CEI conferences such as program chair, local arrangements chair, and presenter at the annual CEI Fall Conference; and noteworthy contributions or innovative approaches to the teaching of English, communications, and other humanities courses."

Barbara Taylor retired from Cleveland Community College in January 2011, after 37 years of teaching and nearly 20 years as the department chair of liberal arts. In her tenure at CCC, she has been the president of Faculty Senate as well as the sponsor, state, and national president (twice) of the Gamma Beta Phi national honor society. She is the only instructor at CCC to win the college's Excellence in Teaching Award twice. She has served on the board of both CEI and TYCE-SE and has helped to organize conferences for both organizations. Additionally, as a long time breast cancer survivor, she has been very active in Cleveland County's Relay for Life campaigns.

In 2003, Barbara also began work on a Ph.D. at Indiana University in Indiana, Pennsylvania and was awarded that degree in August, 2011. Her dissertation discussed the relationships between southern daughters and their fathers as portrayed in the works of Alice Walker, Shirley Ann Grau, and Gail Godwin. That subject was close to Barbara's heart and she used that project to reflect on her own experiences growing up as a loyal and loving southern daughter.

In 2011, Barbara was awarded the Doster Award for outstanding service to TYCA-SE at its annual conference. That award honored her many years of service to TYCA-SE in many capacities, including her organization of the Greensboro Conference in 2009.

In May of 2011, Barbara suffered the first of several strokes, and in July was diagnosed with cancer. Even though she has been unable to fulfill all her retirement plans of travel and reading, she was able to go on a cruise to the Bahamas recently with her son and devoted caregiver Tamara at her side.

Barbara Taylor's life reminds us all of the self-sacrifice and dedication of community college instructors who work long hours, serve many local, state, and regional professional organizations, and quietly and devotedly teach those students who, without such committed educators, would never have the opportunity to reach their own potential. Barbara Taylor's lasting legacy is that she would want us all to value selfless dedication to teaching, to our students, and to the love for and mastery of English.