



Dr. Julie Stafford (1931-2015)

Director of the WASDI NSF Grant providing professional development for teachers throughout Wisconsin

Dr. Julie Stafford was a true friend and champion of education in the State of Wisconsin. She was born in Chippewa Falls, and lived in the area most of her life. Julie was assistant principal at Chippewa Falls Senior High School, and then became Director of Curriculum and Educational Leadership for Chippewa Falls Schools. It was while she was serving in this capacity that she was hired by Cray Research, Inc, the company which created the Cray Supercomputer, to be their Educational Liaison to the schools in Wisconsin. Julie created the weeklong summer Cray Institute in Chippewa Falls, administered an NSF-grant called the Wisconsin Academy Staff Development Initiative (WASDI) for 25 years, and through WASDI spread the summer workshop model throughout the state, at one time having nine different locations throughout Wisconsin. Julie also worked with WASDI to form the Lead Teacher Institute, which trained teacher-leaders in math, science, and technology over a two-year cycle. Julie's vision, leadership and passion for learning impacted thousands of teachers and their students. Julie also modeled the value of, and need for, celebrating success as an essential part of professional growth when she and her husband, Judge Dick Stafford, graciously hosted group celebrations at their beloved Lake Wissota home.