

# CONCORD UNIVERSITY

## DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA



Linda Poff, your outstanding career achievements, your boundless enthusiasm for teaching, and your devotion to Concord University are especially noteworthy.

After graduating from Bluefield High School in 1972, you earned a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, Grades 1-9, from Concord in 1976. That fall, you embarked on a career in teaching that spanned more than four decades.

Your first stop on the journey was at Montcalm Elementary where you taught 4th grade. You later transferred to Straley Elementary, another Mercer County School, where you shared your gift of teaching with 5th and 6th graders. During this time, you furthered your own education by receiving a master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Salem University, and returned to Concord to earn a master's degree in Education with a Specialization in Geography Education.

Although you retired from full-time work in the public school classroom in 2011, you continued to serve as a substitute teacher. Turning to higher education, you taught as an adjunct instructor at Concord from 2003 until 2013.

Your dynamic teaching style and your dedication to promoting geographic literacy are hallmarks of your successful career. Through endeavors with the West Virginia Geographic Alliance and the National Geographic Society, you coordinated the West Virginia Geographic Bee at Concord for eight years and brought several of the society's giant traveling maps of continents to campus for interactive learning fun. You trained at National Geographic Society conferences across the country and worked on staff during summer Geography Institutes for West Virginia teachers held at Concord.

An admired and respected educator, you are a recipient of the prestigious Milken Foundation National Educator Award as well as the National Council for Geographic Education Distinguished Teaching Award. In 1986 you were named the Mercer County Teacher of the Year and in 1990, the Regional Winner of the Rand McNally/NCGE Excellence in Teaching Geography Award. The Concord University Alumni Association honored you with the Outstanding Alumnus Award in 2015 and the Golden Alumnus Award in 2017.

For your exceptional commitment to teaching and to advancing geographic knowledge and for your dedicated service to your alma mater and the community, Concord University confers upon you, Linda Poff, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON  
MAY 11, 2019

  
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