

Sister Mary Petronia Van Straten and Jane Howell Scholarships



Sister Mary Petronia Van Straten started teaching in Wisconsin schools in 1941 and spent her last 36 years teaching at Mount Mary College. She was active in the Wisconsin Mathematics Council for over 20 years serving as secretary, treasurer, and president. She was a frequent speaker at NCTM regional and annual meetings and served on numerous program committees. Her professional accomplishments include an endless list of published articles, offices held, lectures given and awards at the national, state, and local levels. She was one of the first recipients of the Wisconsin Mathematics Council's (WMC) Distinguished Mathematics Educator Award.



Jane Howell taught mathematics at Platteville Middle School from 1965 to 1999. During her tenure with the Platteville Public Schools she also served the district as a professional development advisor, specialist educator, and mentor teacher.

Jane worked in a number of consultant roles with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) including writing the Wisconsin Model Academic Standards for Mathematics, Planning Curriculum in Mathematics (2001), and the Adolescent Learning Toolkit (2007).

She also worked as an advisor for the Advisory Councils for the Frameworks in Science and Mathematics, the Wisconsin Education Communications Board (WECB) and its MATHLINE Project, and the Wisconsin Academy Staff Development Initiative (WASDI) Project. Jane was selected to attend NEWMAS (NASA Educators Workshop for Mathematics). She was selected to attend Woodrow Wilson Institutes at Princeton in 1991 and 1999 on Geometry for Middle School Teachers and Gender Equity.

Jane was the project coordinator for nine ESEA funded projects at UW-Platteville, which provided teacher training for middle school mathematics teachers from throughout the state of Wisconsin. Jane often was a speaker at numerous workshops and conferences throughout WI and the nation.

She has received numerous state and national awards including

- Presidential Award for Excellence in Science and Mathematics Teaching, 1989
- National Middle School Association, Teacher of the Year, 1989
- Distinguished Mathematics Educator Award from WMC, 1990
- Distinguished Alumna for UW-Platteville, 1991

Jane was instrumental in the establishment of the Wisconsin Mathematics Education Foundation (WMEF) and served on the Board of Directors for the first seven years of the foundation's existence.