



Dr. Eveleen Lorton Named Excellence in Education Award Winner

Congratulations to Dr. Eveleen Lorton for receiving the AdvancED Florida Excellence in Education Award. This is a state-level award presented in each state to one individual who has demonstrated unparalleled leadership in promoting and advancing excellence in education.

Dr. Lorton has demonstrated unparalleled excellence in education by continuously promoting and advancing excellence in education in the state of Florida and across the nation through her professional career and her extensive work with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) and AdvancED.

Dr. Lorton has served education as a teacher of English at Sligh Junior High School in Tampa, as a Counselor at Adams Senior High School in Tampa, Counselor at St. Petersburg Community College, and Professor of Education and Director of the Office of School Services at the University of Miami from 1966 until her recent retirement.

Her international teaching experience includes teaching the following topics: Analysis of Effective Teaching (St. Croix, Virgin Islands); Methods of Teaching Language Arts and Teaching Thinking (St. Maarten, Virgin Islands); Supervision and Curriculum for Secondary Education (Nassau, Bahamas); Supervision for Administrators; Secondary & Elementary Teachers (Freeport, Bahamas); Supervision of Teachers Practicum (Tegucigalpa, Honduras and Costa Rica); and Supervision of Teachers (Panama).

Dr. Lorton has presented at state and national conferences on the following topics: Brain-Compatible Instruction, Teaching Thinking, The Role of Humor in Teaching, Clinical Education, and the Grammar and Creative Dance.

Among her many honors and awards are the following: Hillsborough County Teacher of the Year Award, Danforth Associate for the Danforth Foundation, University of Miami School of Education Faculty Alumni Award, membership in the Iron Arrow Honor Society and in Omicron Alpha Kappa.

During her tenure at the University of Miami School of Education, Dr. Lorton worked with the complexities of teaching and served as a resource for developing teachers, for teachers who continue to refine their own teaching styles, and for teachers who were drawn toward the serious analysis of effective teaching behaviors. She has conducted research that provides compelling evidence that teachers' classroom behavior significantly impacts students' learning and attitudes; she has studied closely the theoretical considerations upon which specific effective teaching behaviors are based; and she has analyzed the research on the improvement of classroom performance. In the 1980's she was a key member of the Florida Committee on the Development of the Performance Measurement System and subsequently served as one of 21 initial trainers in the use of this teacher observation instrument. Working with the Florida Department of Education, Dr. Lorton was one of the 12

designers of items for the Florida Teacher Certification Examination. In many ways, Dr. Lorton has provided a lasting positive impact on student learning.

In 1984 she co-initiated the Zelda Glazer Writing Institute which has become a model program in professional development for teachers in Miami-Dade County. Dr. Lorton continuously has sponsored and enhanced this currently offered annual program which is offered by the University of Miami and is co-sponsored by the Miami-Dade School District.

Dr. Lorton generates a common vision and mission for higher expectations among students, faculty, and the educational community in her work with students throughout her professional career and in her involvement with schools and districts through their leadership. Dr. Lorton's excellence in education has continued through her work with Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and currently with AdvancED. She developed *Editing the QAR Report: An Abbreviated Guide for Chairs* for use as a resource in Chair Training and in document preparation as Quality Assurance Review Chairs wrote their reports.

Dr. Lorton demonstrates a record of significant and distinguished contributions to the education profession and especially through her professional contributions to SACS and AdvancED. Her numerous roles of service to AdvancED include serving as a Florida Council Member, Chair of the Florida Council, the Florida Council representation to the Accreditation Commission, Florida Field Consultant, Quality Assurance Review Team Chair and team member, and national and state Reader Reviewer. In addition, Dr. Lorton serves as Readiness Visitor to schools that are applying for accreditation and as Vice Chair of District Accreditation teams across AdvancED.

Every professional undertaking of Dr. Lorton is well-planned and is executed with integrity, precision, and grace. For example, when Dr. Lorton is serving as a QAR Chair, she begins early in the process by getting to know the school, its leader and faculty, and ends the process after the visit with a letter to each of the QAR team members, all copied to the school principal. This is a consistent behavior through the years. An excerpt from the principal of a visited school indicates their appreciation of her excellent professionalism:

“I wish to thank you for making the process such a productive, painless one. Prior to the actual visit, you were always available to clarify issues, answer questions, and direct our efforts. During the visit, you created a non-threatening, professional atmosphere that inspired the entire staff. We all worked very hard throughout the process. You and the entire team recognized this, and your honest appraisal of our reality has been a source of great encouragement to all of us.”

As a QAR chair, Dr. Lorton has served in some difficult roles; in the face of threat, she has been professionally resolute and supported her AdvancED role with grace and diplomacy. Dr. Lorton's service as a QAR Reader Reviewer has been outstanding. She is a master writer and a grammar and composition expert; she has expert knowledge of the AdvancED process and has over the years been a special “go to” resource person for accreditation information and advice. Her vast experience pays off through her advice and guidance to the schools and districts with whom she works and to the Florida Council.

All that Dr. Lorton does is an act of excellence; her life has been dedicated to service through education. Her extensive experience in teaching, professional writing and presentations, professional development training, and school and district consulting has given many the

opportunity to observe true excellence in action. Through all that Dr. Lorton has done and continues to do, she serves as a role model and mentor for students and future generators of educators. Dr. Lorton's lifelong example of excellence in education has earned her the recognition that this award brings.