



Janet R. Tyson Memorial Scholarship
Administered by the Union County Education Foundation



Background

This one-time \$5,000 scholarship award honors the late Rev. Janet R. Tyson, long time UCPS educator and ordained Presbyterian minister. She was an incomparable example of dignity, faith, steadfastness and humility. Janet's life set an example for many, and her fingerprints will remain for generations.

As a child, Janet felt called to Christian ministry. She desperately wanted to become a pastor, but it was not a viable career option for women in the 1960s. Instead, she found another way to serve others - as an educator. After graduating from Parkwood High School in 1964, she went to Winthrop University where she earned both a B.A. and M.A. in English. She taught at Wingate University for two years before starting her career at Sun Valley High School in 1973.

In 1980, Janet's husband, a civil engineer for the N.C. Department of Transportation, was killed in a work-related accident leaving her with two small children to raise on her own. Always a woman of strength, Janet led her family forward and taught her children by example with her strong

character, work ethic, and steadfast perseverance. While a single parent, Janet went on to earn an M.A. in Education Administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and an Education Specialist degree from Winthrop. After teaching English at Sun Valley for more than a decade, she was promoted to assistant principal and then became only the second woman to serve as a principal of a high school in Union County. Janet blended firmness with compassion and left an indelible mark on thousands of Spartans.

After nearly 30 years in public education, Janet retired in 2002 and immediately started her second career. She took classes at the Charlotte campus of Richmond-based Union Presbyterian Seminary and earned her third master's degree in 2006. She was ordained by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. and served several Union County Presbyterian churches in both interim and full-time roles for more than a decade. In her final years, Janet was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Monroe where she devoted her time and talents to a congregation whom she loved and adored.

Funding

The Union County Education Foundation manages the scholarship endowment and will continue to accept funds donated to the scholarship on an ongoing basis.

Award Criteria

- Must be a graduating UCPS senior in good standing.
- Preference given to Sun Valley High students, but all high schools are welcome to apply.
- Must be planning to pursue public education as a college major.
- Must demonstrate academic excellence and integrity with a minimum GPA of 3.0.
- Must have demonstrated leadership and service.
- Must have overcome challenges.

Selection Process

Nominations are encouraged from Sun Valley High faculty and from the district's Teaching As a Profession (TAP) cohorts at Weddington High and Porter Ridge High. Applications are reviewed and selected by the Scholarship Committee of UCEF composed of Board Members and others as needed.

Payment of Scholarship

The one-time scholarship check of \$5,000 will be paid by UCEF to the financial aid/student accounts office of the post-secondary institution in which the recipient is enrolled with instructions to apply it to educational expenses including tuition, fees, books and supplies or room and board for the academic year. This payment will be made prior to the beginning of the first term of the recipient's freshman year unless other arrangements are agreed to by UCEF.

X

Katie and Brian Von Bergen

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Amy Sperry
Executive Director