

Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation
2013 CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREES

Leanne Gabriel

Leanne Gabriel began her career with Gahanna-Jefferson in 1971 as a middle-school language arts and social studies instructor.

During that time, she led a four-member collaborative team teaching a pilot program. The initiative placed a group of students with a designated group of teachers, who were provided a common planning period which to develop a curriculum that seamlessly crossed multiple content areas. Upon reviewing the results of the pilot program, it was decided this co-teaching method helped to reduce student alienation and increased a sense of community. The practice was formally adopted across the District, as well as activity-based instruction. It was also during this time she led the District's participation in the Ohio Department of Education's *Right to Read* program.

She led similar work in 1979 when she went on to serve at Gahanna Lincoln High School, teaching courses in social studies, world history, global studies, and sociology.

In 2004, the Ohio Department of Education designated her as the *Social Studies Teacher of Year*. In 2007, she developed and chaired an intervention assistance program for academically struggling students. Leanna also served in the role of a Gahanna-Jefferson Teacher-Leader under the guidance of the Superintendent's office.

As a staff adviser to Gahanna Lincoln High School's Arab League, she assisted her students to excel in The Model Arab League (MAL) program, sponsored by The National Council on U.S. — Arab Relations and held at The Ohio State University.

Leanne was also a key partner with The Ohio State University in working with student teachers and their collaborative program with teachers in Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, helping them learn interactive social studies teaching methods.

"Having worked alongside her as a classroom teacher, an administrator and a friend, her zeal, subject matter knowledge, and approachability is the embodiment of a 'can do' attitude," said John Howard, a retired GLHS administrator. Howard also expressed an admiration and appreciation of her willingness to address tough issues in a "consistently honest and fair manner."

Before retiring 2007, Leanna worked with her department colleagues to implement a social research project culminating with the students participating in hands-on interactive demonstrations and job shadowing opportunities with industry experts and community leaders.

Asked of her most vivid memory as a Gahanna-Jefferson educator, Leanna said, "working collegially with a department of men!"

Told of this, Howard smiles, acknowledging the good-hearted banter of the team, insisting it was due to how much Leanne was "well-loved and appreciated for her passion toward education and deep content knowledge."