

CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREE

Barbara Denner received her M.A. from The Ohio State University in 1970, and served 25 years in the Gahanna-Jefferson District. From 1967-1975, she was a 5th- and 6th-grade teacher at Jefferson Elementary. Denner taught 8th-grade English at Middle School East from 1975-1979. Moving to the district administrative offices in 1979, she worked in curriculum and instruction and became the director in 1986, retiring in 1992.

In curriculum and instruction, Denner played a significant role in laying the foundation for the development of a strong English language arts program, which introduced whole language and the writing process. Her development of annual district writing assessments and district rubrics continue to help students today to become successful writers.

Denner facilitated the development of numerous courses of study in the district based on current research and best practice. As well, she represented Gahanna-Jefferson Schools on many Central Ohio committees such as: Leadership Council Representative for the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD); and with ASCD Ohio, she was President, Past President, President Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Program Chairman, Influence Team Chairman, and Leadership Council Chairman.

Most notable was Denner's availability to assist teachers in their classrooms. Her leadership and vision provided the cornerstone for strong curriculum, appropriate teacher professional development and increased student achievement, which the district continues to build upon.