

A “force” in education leadership, Lynn Davis Carter was the first teacher in Henderson County to earn the prestigious National Board Certification, helped develop teacher standards still used in today’s classrooms, and nurtured a “lush learning environment” that developed “lifelong learners.”

Mrs. Carter began her teaching career in Wake and Swain County Schools before joining Rugby Middle School’s staff in 1979 where she taught 8th grade English, and briefly Social Studies, before retiring in 2005.

Never backing away from a leadership opportunity, Mrs. Carter served on the School Improvement team for nine years, chaired the committee for Schools to Watch – leading to Rugby Middle’s 2003 recognition as one of eight Schools to Watch in the nation – and was an active board member of the Henderson County Education Foundation from 2003 to 2007.

Mrs. Carter brought her drive and tenacious spirit into the classroom. “What her students viewed as mountains, Lynn saw as a bump in the road on the path to success,” writes Mike Lemmons, teammate at Rugby Middle. Creativity and innovation were the hallmarks of Mrs. Carter’s teaching style and are what her students remember: technology in the classroom in the 1980’s before it was common, a weekly current events game, Mountains to the Sea trips, and historical and language arts-based gravestone investigations. “Lynn created an atmosphere of curiosity, excitement, and enjoyment that encouraged each student to act on their own initiative,” writes James Case, former Rugby Middle principal and 2008 Hall of Fame Inductee.

Mrs. Carter was recognized by her peers as leader and was named Rugby Middle School Teacher of the Year in 1990 and received Western Carolina’s Creative Teacher of the Year award in 1996.

Former colleague Sam Henry writes, “Her passion for education is evident in her life’s work.” After earning her National Board Certification, Mrs. Carter made it her mission to mentor hundreds of fellow Henderson County educators through the rigorous process, which she’s continued into her retirement.

“She has been a positive force in curriculum and teacher standards for years before and after her retirement,” writes Mary Louise Corn, Henderson County Board of Public Education member. “Her contribution to Henderson County is incalculable and that contribution now extends far beyond this county – but (is) always for the benefit of public education of children.”