

Barbara Wolf

Professor of Special Education

Dr. Barbara Wolf began her career at Indiana University after graduating from the University of Illinois with her Ph.D. in special education and a minor in educational evaluation.

Dr. Wolf distinguished herself as a teaching scholar, researcher, and in her broad service to Indiana University. Throughout the years she has received numerous awards, including the Frederic Bachman Lieber Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Trustees' Teaching Award (five times over!), the university-wide Student Choice Award (twice), and the Indiana University Student Alumni Teaching Award. She was also selected as Chancellor's Scholar at Vanderbilt University.

In her contributions to Indiana University, she has been an exemplary citizen willingly serving as associate dean of faculties, director of assessment for the Bloomington campus, director of the undergraduate program in special education, and chair of more than 26 university-wide committees, as well as numerous committees for the School of Education. In research, Dr. Wolf, in addition to being recognized as a Chancellor's Scholar at Vanderbilt University, was a research exchange scholar at the Swedish-American Cultural Academy, a two-time recipient of the Outstanding Researcher/ Contributor award from the Council of Exceptional Children, and chair of the National Task Force on Quality Professional Preparation. In addition, Dr. Wolf is the author of various books and articles on research methodology, teacher education, and evaluation strategies for cultural institutions.

Perhaps her greatest legacy will be the more than 16,000 students she educated through the courses she taught. By addressing various perspectives including history, sociology, law, ethics, and politics, Dr. Wolf continually challenged her students to consider issues from a broad knowledge base. Over the years many students have expressed their appreciation for her teaching and the power it had to "change . . . my life." Her passion, enthusiasm, and high expectations for student learning became legendary. Students recognized her witty and contagious sense of humor, as well as the stories she told to capture students' attention and motivate their understanding. Regardless of the number of students in her classes, she made it a point to learn each student's name and to show a sincere interest in him or her both inside and outside the classroom.

Dr. Wolf's work extended beyond the university walls. She worked with cultural institutions nationally and internationally to create environments that became universally accessible, and she also provided sound educational information to diverse audiences. She is recognized as a national leader in the field of museum studies and evaluation. Dr. Wolf has taken tremendous interest in community life, serving as a board member for many United Way agencies and volunteering to help children of homeless families. Dr. Wolf

remains a sought-after keynote speaker and continues to be recognized across the state, nationally, and internationally (for example, by UNESCO) for her many, many contributions to elevating the quality of life for individuals with disabilities and for informing thought on educational issues and practices.

~Cathy Pratt