

# *Linda Dougherty*

Linda (Lee) Dougherty lived in southern Arkansas with her parents, Joe and Mary Lee, along with her two younger sisters Susan and Becky, and was surrounded by a very large family of aunts, uncles, and cousins. After graduation from Warren High School, she accepted scholarships from the University of Arkansas and headed up the Pig Trail to Fayetteville. Let's just say, Linda enjoyed her time at Arkansas majoring in Business Education with a Marketing major, joining the Alpha Delta Pi sorority (Pledge Class President and Social Chairperson), and meeting her future husband Gary Dougherty from Missouri.

Linda and Gary came to Missouri and found a home in House Springs. She did substitute teaching for a few years but stayed at home with Andrew (Class of 1998), Ann (Class of 2000), and Mary (Class of 2003). When Mary was a second grader, Linda started teaching at Cedar Springs Elementary as a para-educator for the school library for two years. When the school district hired back school librarians for each building, Linda was ready with certification. She transferred to Northwest High School Library in the fall of 2000.

Linda Dougherty was the District Library Chair and High School Library Media Specialist for Northwest R-I School District in Cedar Hill, Missouri until retirement. She was honored with the Northwest R-I School District Golden Apple Award, 1996-1997, the Emerson Electric Co. Award for Excellence in Teaching for St. Louis Area Teachers in 1998, and the Northwest High School Teacher of the Year in 2005-2006. Linda shared the best instructional practices and integration of technology whenever she had the opportunity - whether it was teaching the freshmen in the library, collaborating with classroom teachers down the hallway, leading district professional development sessions, or presenting at state and national conferences. Her librarian colleagues were Dr. Tom Gosebrink, Rhonda Dobbs, and Kim Hornkohl during her high school tenure.

She completed her Master's in Education in 1998 with Lindenwood University by being part of that university's first cohort taking classes every Monday after school hours for two years. Thank you to Carol Hoefgen and Vicki Thompson and the rest of the Northwest crew for great fellowship during those years. Later, Linda worked as an adjunct instructor for local school district workshops and Education Plus.

Linda loved attending national and state conferences where she connected in person with her Personal Learning Network of librarians. Starting in 2010, she volunteered for the ISTE School Librarian Digital Playground in person and on-line and completed her ISTE leadership work in 2019. Linda was an annual presenter for the Missouri School Librarians Conference and the Midwest Education Technology Conference. She was honored in 2013 as METC Spotlight Educator and in 2016 as MASL Spring Conference Featured Presenter.

Professionally, Linda volunteered as Missouri State Teachers Association Northwest R-I CTA president from 2001 until retirement. She was active in the Jefferson County Region and state levels by presenting at conferences and by being involved in teacher negotiations. She was honored with the Missouri State Teachers 2015 Leadership Class Award which recognized leaders throughout the state.

When Linda retired from Northwest R-I School District, she accepted a job offer from the Bureau of Education and Research (BER) in July 2018. Presenting day-long seminars from New Hampshire to California gave her an opportunity to travel and meet school librarians across the states. In 2020, the programs switched to Zoom webinars which were a new learning experience. Finally, in 2022, Linda officially retired again.

Now, Linda and Gary enjoy visiting with their grandkids in Alexandria, Virginia, and in Festus, Missouri. Linda still heads south to visit her sister in southern Arkansas and is looking forward to future shopping trips. Daughter Ann lives in Alaska so a trip north will be planned. Of course, Linda loves reading new e-books, enjoys binge-watching movies and series, and loves the fact that there is no longer an early morning alarm clock!

We are proud to welcome Linda Dougherty to the 2023 Distinguished Educator Alumni Hall of Fame.