

Gloria Wilson Juedemann, Ed. S

Gloria Diane Wilson was born September 25, 1949, to James and Clara Wilson. She has one sister, Sharon Wilson Eberhardt, seven years her senior. The Wilson Family lived on Dulin Creek Road just outside of House Springs, Missouri, until after Gloria's graduation from Northwest High School (NHS) in 1967.

Gloria married Charles Juedemann in 1991. Charles is also an NHS student from the class of 1962. Gloria and Charles have a blended family of three children and six grandchildren.

Gloria attended first through twelfth grade in the Northwest R-I School District and credits her successes in life in part to the strong foundation provided by the Northwest staff during her formative years as a student. Her first contact in school, Mrs. Anna Lee Long, her first grade teacher, third grade teacher, and the principal of House Springs Elementary. Mrs. Long treated students with respect and kindness all the while maintaining an organized and disciplined school. Gloria admired Mrs. Long and wanted to be just like her.

Middle School teachers, Mr. Dilday and Ms. Kirstein spoke at times of their travels and left in Gloria's young mind the seeds for growth in the same direction. Mr. Simpson taught Science and with him everything was "fine and good". He showed respect and care for students, encouraging and dignifying their answers.

As a freshman in high school Gloria failed her first American History test. While trying to leave the classroom unseen as the dismissal bell rang, she was beckoned back inside by her teacher, Betty Shirley. "Why did you fail the test?" she asked. Gloria had no good answer, but with Ms. Shirley's encouragement as well as some helpful methods of taking notes, Gloria never failed another test and likes to say, "She threw me a life line." It was a long-lasting gift and one that Gloria has tried to "pay forward" time and again when working with students in her own educational career.

Gloria received an Associate of Arts degree from Mineral Area College in 1974. From Southeast Missouri State University, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with Specialization in the Exceptional Child (1978), a Master of Arts in Education, Guidance and Counseling (1983), and a Specialist in Educational Administration (1998).

Before Gloria's first full time teaching contract in Learning Disabilities, she had been a paraprofessional in remedial reading and a part-time Head Start teacher. When she was approached by Superintendent Larry Rider regarding an opening in counseling, she accepted that challenge and went on to serve as the first Elementary School Counselor in the Southern Reynolds County R-II School District in Ellington, Missouri.

In her next position, Gloria became an itinerant Behavior Disorders teacher for the Exceptional Child Cooperative of Houston, Missouri, traveling between Van Buren R-1 School, Fremont School, and Winona R-3 School. Job duties included working with three different administrators and collaborating with staff members who would provide behavioral interventions for students. During this period of time the Winona R-3 School District had an opening for a K-12 School Counselor.

Gloria applied, gaining the position, this time expanding her skills to upper grades, focusing on vocational opportunities. While communicating with Winona business leaders she developed the first ever Career Day and planned vocational field trips to local businesses, also arranging student visits to various college campuses as well as to the Army base at Fort Leonard Wood.

In 1987, Gloria was employed as an Elementary School Counselor with the Union R-XI School District in Union, Missouri, and remained in the district until her retirement in 2005. Most of her years with the Union R-XI District were spent working in Beaufort Elementary School. During this time Gloria developed many innovative and creative school wide programs in addition to her regular duties of implementing the guidance curriculum. Regular duties included assisting staff with student concerns, building test coordinator, application of and compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA), small group and individual counseling, classroom guidance activities, conflict resolution intervention, parent conferences, teacher conferences, as well as assisting the building principal with class scheduling.

Innovative activities Gloria developed, organized, and scheduled included the Test Buster Program to improve test scores, Hobby Day to encourage positive leisure time activities, Career Day to introduce students to the world of work, Red Ribbon Week to inform students of the harmful effect of drugs, Science Night to promote an interest in applied science, and Multicultural Day to familiarize students with various cultures. In addition, Gloria planned activities for at-risk students, including an Attendance Club to improve attendance, Lunch Bunch, (lunch with students) and Friendship Club to encourage social skills. She organized a Fight Free Program and coordinated it with Character Education, planning monthly assemblies for students that proved effective in reducing student discipline problems. Many of these activities were adopted by other schools within the district and state. Gloria understood the importance of positive public relations between school and community and routinely invited community and parent participation in school events, particularly Hobby Day, Career Day, and Red Ribbon Week culminating activities. She included newspaper coverage, radio and even TV coverage when possible.

Gloria also served on various committees during her career. She assisted in the development of the Union R-XI Guidance Curriculum, was Chair of the Teacher Support Team, initiated the development of the Union R-XI Crisis Intervention Plan, was a member of the Beaufort Social Committee and Career Ladder Committee, member of the Professional Development Committee, member of the Outdoor Committee where she planned, developed, and organized a nature unit for the outdoor lab. She participated in hosting the visits of two Missouri governors to Beaufort School.

Gloria attended many professional conferences throughout her career and after retirement. She has presented numerous workshops for local, state, and national organizations. Gloria held various leadership positions in several professional organizations, including president. She was a member of the Missouri School Counselor Association and both Southeast and South Central Missouri School Counselor Organizations. She also served on the South Central Missouri Crisis Team and the Missouri School Improvement Team, and continues to be an active member of Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for Key Women Educators.

In 2002/2003, Gloria was named South Central Missouri School Counselor of the Year and in 2003/2004 Gloria received the Elementary Counselor of the Year Award from the Missouri School Counselor Association. Gloria was honored again in 2005 when she received the American School Counselor Association National Elementary School Counselor of the Year Award in recognition of her innovative program development and outstanding contributions to the school counseling profession.

Gloria retired in May, 2005, after 25 years working in public education. But it didn't stop there! After retirement Gloria worked in a full time/part time position for East Central College in the Counseling Advising Department for a 12 week maternity leave. Soon after this the Gasconade County School District in Owensville, Missouri, requested Gloria's help to fill in as elementary school counselor due to the unfortunate death of their current counselor. She responded to the crisis, accepting the position for a semester until a permanent counselor could be found.

Shortly afterward Gloria had the opportunity to teach Conversational English in China for two weeks. This program was sponsored by the Jiangsu Department of Education (much like our Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) in the Jiangsu Province of the People's Republic of China. What seemed like a once in a lifetime adventure for Gloria and her husband, Charles, soon turned into an amazing international business from 2009 until COVID halted the program in 2020. After teaching in China during the summers of 2006, 2007, and 2008 Gloria began her own business, We Teach in China, and served as the Director. Gloria recruited teachers for the short term summer program, provided training and orientation, and assisted participants in making travel arrangements to China. As well, the Juedemanns traveled with the teachers and also taught in the program. Over 500 teachers from all across America, Canada, and England took part in We Teach in China giving them the opportunity, as well as the good fortune, to experience the Chinese culture and Chinese educational system in a safe setting with experienced leaders.

During this time Gloria was again contacted by the Gasconade County School District. They were desperately in need of an English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher and asked Gloria if she would assist them. Once again, Gloria stepped up. She developed an ESL program for the district and taught 2 ½ days per week for 2 ½ years.

Gloria retired the second time in 2020 after COVID ended We Teach in China. She continues to stay busy and especially enjoys spending time with her adventure-some husband, her family and friends. Activities include traveling, reading, hunting for unique collectibles and antiques, baking decorative cookies for family and friends, and participating in the ministries of her church.

Gloria counts her blessings and considers the Northwest School District and Northwest High School one of those many blessings