Cochran Announces Retirement

Betty Cochran, Chairperson of the Arts and Sciences Division at Beaufort County Community College, has announced that she will be retiring on May 8. Her retirement marks the culmination of a distinguished 36-year teaching career. Mrs. Cochran's arrival at BCCC 29 years ago was not her teaching debut. She already had eight years of public school teaching experience.

Since then, Cochran has worked with more than 5,000 students. Her English classes have guided many students to the successful completion of their BCCC degrees, encouraged others to seek additional degrees from universities, and led still other students to seek out rewarding careers. Cochran's commitment to excellence has become legendary among her students as well as the entire Community College system. Although many of her students would say that Cochran's demand for high performance caused them initial distress, many have come back to thank her for preparing them properly for the workplace or the university campus.

Mrs. Cochran states, "I have been blessed to work in a job that I love. Day in and day out, year after year, I have enjoyed getting into my car and coming to the college. It has been especially gratifying to see my BCCC students working in banks, doctors' offices, CPA firms, and the like, doing gratifying work and contributing to the well-being of our community. It is good to see that they have found their lives."

A native Texan, Mrs. Cochran earned her BA and her MA from Lamar University in Beaumont. Upon graduation, she taught for three years in Texas and worked on her Master's degree in summer months. In 1964 she moved to North Carolina where she accepted a job as a teacher at Bath High School.

Although Mrs. Cochran was trained to teach literature, composition became her subject of choice after she began teaching in the community college system. Writing is a life skill, and Mrs. Cochran has dedicated herself to teaching it to the best of her abilities. She has studied several composition-teaching techniques across the United States. However, the one-to-one conferencing method of Roger Garrison was the format that she found enables students to develop their writing skills to a greater extent. "Implementing the Garrison method," Mrs. Cochran believes, "was one of the major 'wise decisions' of my career."

Mrs. Cochran's list of accomplishments at BCCC is long. Perhaps her greatest achievement is in steering the college through two SACS (Southern Association of...

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