

## **Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement: Professor Susan Beck**

As a UNC faculty member since 1980 and current Division Chair of the Clinical Laboratory Science program at UNC, Dr. Susan Beck's impactful mentoring encompasses undergraduate and master's students along with junior faculty. Dr. Beck was one of the first faculty members in the Department of Health Sciences to adopt social justice and DEI initiatives in her teaching and mentoring practices, which likely contributed to her program's diverse student cohort and personal mentoring relationships that flourish well-beyond students' time at UNC.

Many students, faculty, and graduates wrote in support of Dr. Beck, lauding her ability to build confidence in others while providing positive feedback and support. She was described as someone who provides additional resources for her mentees and gives of her time selflessly to support and educate others. One alumnus wrote, "Dr. Beck is first and foremost a role model for students. She is able to galvanize students because of the tireless effort she has dedicated to the CLS profession." Another shared: "After I graduated from the CLS program, I moved to East Africa for two years. Part of that time I spent volunteering in a clinic in an underserved area. After reaching out to Dr. Beck about my experience, she was kind enough to donate laboratory supplies to a severely under-resourced clinic. This is a testament to Dr. Beck's support of her students in and beyond her classroom as well as her commitment to quality laboratory services in and beyond UNC's campus."

Dr. Beck is highly regarded as a role model and one that inspires others to reach their full potential. She facilitates learning by including variety in her instruction and coursework, and in doing so, fosters a sense of belonging that is critical to learner success. She is also deeply invested in her students—an investment that lasts well beyond graduation. One individual gave this example: "Dr. Beck was very proud of us and she made that known! At graduation, she took the time to announce our post-graduation plans to include job acceptances, research endeavors, and even nonprofit endeavors in my case. You can only imagine the excitement and gratitude I experienced when she and the CLS faculty gifted me a wonderful care package of pipettes, test tubes, racks, wooden sticks, and slides for my STEM-focused nonprofit. Words can't express how much that gesture meant to me. Dr. Beck was the director of a program that genuinely seeks to invest in its students and their dreams. And that investment reaches far beyond just what we accomplish as individuals."

It is clear from the number of nominations that Dr. Beck's impact on junior faculty in her department has been profound. One individual stated, "As a junior faculty member, she took me under her wing and taught me all the practical skills necessary for leading a class and education students, but also the critical skills to excel in academia. She supported my interests, my ideas and my desire to return to school for a doctoral degree. She served on my dissertation committee, gave me formative feedback and helped me to understand key components to a successful dissertation. As I think about my professional progression . . . Dr. Beck has been there with me for every step along the way. She has shown unwavering support and is the single most influential person in my professional successes." Another mentee stated that her relationship with Dr. Beck and the support that she has received has spanned almost four decades.

For her outstanding mentorship of students, graduates, and faculty members alike, we are proud to award Dr. Susan Beck with the well-deserved Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement.