



Juanita K. Parker – Ness City, KS

Juanita Parker feels that as an educator her overall goal is to teach the whole child/teenager and develop a positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning. By using collaborative effort, her students develop a thirst for knowledge, become self-confident, and develop high moral, social, and ethical standards.

Her path to teaching began at Ottawa University in 1954, where she completed 65 hours. In 1956 she attended Kansas State Teachers College (KSTC) (Emporia State University) and earned her BS in Education with an emphasis in Business in 1958. Over the summer months on 1964 to 1966 she earned an MS in Education with emphasis in business education. She completed additional hours above her masters at ESU and Fort Hays State University and DCCC. At the local level there were many hours of in-service meetings related to curriculum. She also worked with other business educators to plan and prepare the first *Business Education Guide for Kansas*. Additionally, she worked as a member of the National Business Education Association Model Curriculum K-14 Task Force that provided an opportunity to interact with educators throughout the nation. Curriculum offerings and methods of teaching were discussed as recommended courses and course outlines evolved.

She used her professional growth throughout her career. In 1958 she began at Utica Rural High School and remained there for 2 years. In 1960 she worked at Ness City High School for 38 years. In 1995 she worked at Ness City Junior High School for 3 years and from there she worked for Dodge City Community College from 1982 to 1989.

Throughout her hard work, she received many awards, honors, and recognitions. She was recognized as the R.B. Russell Outstanding Business Teacher of Kansas in 1983. She was listed in *Leaders of American Elementary and Secondary Education* in 1971, and *Who's Who Among American Teachers* in 1990. She was nominated for Kansas Teacher of the year in 1991 and Nominated for Master Teacher award in 1987.

Her community involvement is also varied and dedicated. At the First Baptist Church she has been a life-long member and has held many offices. In Ness County they host an "Old Settlers Reunion" for which Juanita has served as chair, registrar, and committee chair.

Juanita was so dedicated to helping students that she would open her classroom in the Spring to students at night so that students would have access to equipment in the department and to her help as needed. Many students took advantage of this availability. Because of typing (Keyboarding) skills she taught, many young men who entered the military were placed in office positions rather than on the front line.

Derek Hembree, a former student states, “Without the knowledge that she bestowed upon me to help me grow personally and professionally, I would not be where I am today. She is a true legend and is highly respected for all her contributions and many years of service.” We welcome her to the KTHOF Class of 2020.