

2017 Dale Foor Cornerstone Award Honoree

CAROLE BICKEL

RESIDES: GAHANNA, OHIO

Carole Bickel has been an educator for more than 35 years at both the secondary and collegiate level. She spent 17 years at Gahanna Lincoln High School, sharing her love of mathematics with students of all grades.



"I taught absolutely everything having to do with high school math, and was department chair for 14 years," said Bickel. "I love high school students and walking the halls of the building."

Fellow Cornerstone Award inductee Dale Foor hired Bickel as a GLHS math teacher in 1991. Prior to her time at Gahanna Lincoln, she taught part-time at Franklin University for a decade. While at the high school, she saw a need for a math course for students who were not college-bound.

"We wanted to find a way to get seniors sitting in study hall into and interested in a math class, and we had to create that class from scratch," said Bickel. "It turned out to be a really popular math course, combining discrete mathematics, probability, and statistics. It was unique due to its umbrella format full of different topics."

Foor complimented her leadership, noting that significant positive progress was made in the math department, including the addition of advanced placement (AP) coursework.

"She was also a very caring teacher," said fellow Cornerstone Award inductee Jody Cox. "She personally cared about my son and his progress, and it truly touched me."

TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL WAS THE HIGHLIGHT OF MY CAREER. I DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH I LOVED IT UNTIL I RETIRED.

Bickel cited the district's excellence

as a whole, and the creativity, work ethic and dedication of the GLHS staff and administration, as reasons for the longevity of her tenure.

"Gahanna has a small-town feel and the community is very caring, especially about the schools," said Bickel. "While the high school is large, it really is more like a small college campus. There are so many safety nets to guide students, and the programs - arts, music, science, special needs - are just great! Everything is there for whatever kind of student you have."

Bickel is a graduate of the Ohio State University. She has been married to Blair for 48 years, and they have three children (Brad, Barb, and Bethany) who all attended Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools. Their five grandchildren (Chase, Sophia, Olivia, Oliver, and Joey) now attend Gahanna schools.