

Catherine E. Hackney, Ph.D.



Dr. Catherine E. Hackney passed away due to pancreatic cancer on December 28, 2024. Born on January 22, 1949, Cathy graduated from Kent State University and obtained her master's degree from Cleveland State University and her doctoral degree from Georgia State University.

To know Cathy was to experience love in action. Cathy's compassion and sparkling personality touched those who knew her. Throughout her career as school principal, professor, and higher education administrator, she exemplified the exceptional leadership that she wrote about and taught. Cathy had a unique ability to generate collaborative discussions, to recognize multiple viewpoints, and to nourish collective action.

Cathy retired from Kent State University as Professor of Leadership Studies and Associate Dean of Administrative Affairs and Graduate Education. She held national offices in the American Council on Education and the American Educational Research Association. She served as Secretary of the Kent State University Foundation Board until 2023. Cathy was Dean of Graduate Studies at Ursuline College, Cleveland. Her professional career supported her work with women leaders in the US, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. Insights gained through this work informed her book, *Leading from a Feminist Soul*. Cathy was a member of the Advisory Board of the KSU Women's Center and President of the Board of Trustees for Our Lady of the Elms School, Akron.

In Naples, Cathy served two terms as President of the Board of Directors of the Greater Naples AAUW Charitable Foundation, Inc. and was an active participant in several committees of the AAUW Greater Naples Branch. She was 1st Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Collier County and a key member of the Reproductive Health; Education; and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committees. Cathy had a genius for organizing events and inspiring collaborative action. Her intelligence and sense of humor pervaded her work.

The Catherine E. Hackney, Ph.D. Endowed Scholarship Fund was funded by contributions from her family, including her loving husband, James R. Hackney, her former students, and her many friends. Contributions may be sent to the Greater Naples AAUW Foundation, PO Box 9742, Naples Florida, 34101 or through the webpage: <https://greaternaples-fl.aauw.net/greater-naples-aauw-charitable-foundation/>. All donors should click on the yellow "donate" button on the right and enter "Hackney Fund" in the notes section of the donation form that next opens.