

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to Marquette University and the School of Education for the honor of this award. Arriving here in 1987 as school psychologist with the Milwaukee Public Schools, Marquette transformed me from someone who cared about the needs of young people to someone who became able to bring a level of scientific rigor to those cares and thus increase the chances of making a difference. It was a true gift for which I am eternally grateful

In particular, I would like to note the enormous influence that my friend and colleague, Bob Fox, has had on my career. As a professor and mentor, he provided a model of scholarship, excellence in the classroom, and commitment in the community that has served as a literally unreachable standard and major contributor to my low self-esteem today. Thanks, Bob.

Career awards are never for solitary accomplishments, and this is no exception. I am here because Kathy Larson made it possible for me spend as many hours as I needed on my dissertation, because my colleagues at UW-Whitewater stepped up when I needed support for my work, and because countless students provided me with the daily joys of teaching. I am grateful to them all.

I have spent my career trying to address the problems of violence in public schools. It has been a daunting effort. Yet, one of the bright spots has been the recent emergence of educators from programs such as Marquette's with fresh and vigorous commitments to both quality education and social justice for all students.

These young people get it in ways that many in my generation struggled with. They understand the multiple risk factors that children from intergenerational poverty bring with them into the school building. They understand that many families need support from the school and not blame. And they understand that there is goodness inside of every angry child that is looking for someone to bring it out. There is a great new generation of educators out there today, and more coming. All of us in this room today have reason for hope.

Recently, I had the opportunity for a lengthy exchange with another faculty member at UW-Whitewater on a controversial topic about which we both held strong opinions. When the meeting was over, he stopped me in the hallway and said, "You were taught by the Jesuits, weren't you?" I nodded with pride!

As those who know me will attest, I wear my Marquette University pedigree with enormous pride, and I hope that my small accomplishments will continue to reflect well upon this great university. Thank you all very much for this wonderful honor.