



Wake Forest University Baptist  
MEDICAL CENTER

*Recognizes*  
**Dr. Dean Clifford as a**  
*Lifetime Achievement*  
*Award recipient*



*Dean Clifford is flanked by members of her family.*

## Shaper of young lives

For 40 years Dean Clifford has been involved with shaping the minds of young people. Beginning in the 1960s, she worked as a teacher at North Forsyth High School and a home child-care provider.

Later she would become a curriculum developer and instructor at Forsyth Technical Community College's adult high school program.

For 13 years she was a school counselor at Old Town Elementary School, work that earned her Old Town Teacher of the Year honors in 1982.

Clifford's most challenging and fulfilling work would come through her efforts being an advocate for the very young. In the early 1990s, she founded the Great Beginnings Family Support Program. The program, which was designed for children from infancy to 5 years old, pushed the notion that parents are children's most important teachers. Great Beginnings gave parents the tools they needed to help their children be successful.

Clifford expanded the scope of her work

when she became executive director of Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership in 1995. The partnership became the county's Smart Start agency that year, and with Clifford at the driver's wheel, the partnership began to form broad collaborations with local child care centers, businesses, governmental agencies and churches.

The results have been beneficial to children of various economic backgrounds all over Forsyth County. Local child care facilities have been increased and child care instructors are much better educated as a result of the work done at Forsyth Early Childhood Partnership.

Clifford left the agency in late last year and now is helping similar agencies find success. In addition to her work as a public speaker and workshop leader, she runs her own consulting firm. She is providing services to Colorado's early childhood initiative.

Clifford has been married to Fred Clifford for more than 40 years. They have four adult children and two grandchildren.



*Dean Clifford in her high school days.*



*Clifford serves youngsters in the Great Beginnings program.*



*Dean Clifford is awarded a Smart Start plaque from former governor Jim Hunt.*