

Frank H. Wood – A Shared Concern for Each Other

Over his career, Dr. Frank Wood served as a general educator, special educator, university professor and administrator, researcher, project director, journal editor, and a leader of professional organizations. In every role, his involvement in the Society of Friends (Quakers) has influenced his philosophy of collective responsibility. He says, “There are some things that a society as a whole can do that as individuals were not able to do...I’m very passionate about a society where people have a shared concern for each other.”

Frank Wood has been a thoughtful and caring leader in education of students with behavior disorders. He is a pioneering teacher, teacher educator, researcher, author, editor, advocate, consultant, organizer, and mentor to many other leaders.



He was born in 1929 and after growing up in rural Kansas and graduating from Harvard College, he went to graduate school at Haverford College and earned a teaching degree from the University of Minnesota. Frank and his wife, Raquel, also an educator, taught on the Big Cypress Seminole Reservation in Florida for two years before he returned to teach in inner city Minneapolis. When the district established the first special classroom in Minnesota for students with behavior disorders, the Director, Evelyn Deno (see Deno, 1970) asked Frank to be its inaugural teacher. Deno also encouraged Frank to pursue graduate studies at the University of Minnesota, working as a

student with other early leaders in special education, including Bruce Balow, Maynard Reynolds, and Frank Wilderson.

Frank Wood was the first PhD graduate to specialize in education of students with behavior disorders at the University of Minnesota. In 1961 he organized meetings that led to formation of the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders (CCBD now the Division of Emotional Behavioral Health, DEBH). He later served as president of CCBD and on the Council for Exceptional Children Board of Governors.

On faculty at the University of Minnesota, he coordinated preparation of EBD teachers, directed Special Education Programs, and mentored numerous graduate students who themselves became leaders in the field. These include Nance Bettenhausen, Sheldon Braaten, Sharon Maroney, Reece Peterson; Elisabeth Rogers, Russ Skiba, Mitch Yell, Mary Kay Zabel, Robert Zabel among many others.

Dr. Wood established and directed the Advanced Training Institute in Serious Emotional Disturbance which gathered and disseminated state-of-the-art information. He brought together leading researchers, teacher educators, practitioners, and innovators from across the country to share ideas, approaches, and research about identification, interventions, and programming.

When asked his advice for persons entering this field he said, "...I know I would enter this field again as a young person if I could. I found wonderful opportunities to work with very, very interesting, challenging students ...they are fascinating, creative people. Those who are attracted to work with this group are themselves ...attracted to a difficult challenge."



Among the students Frank Influenced are: Nance Bettenhausen, Sheldon Braaten, Doug and Lynn Fuchs, Sharon Maroney, Reece Peterson; Elisabeth Rogers, Russ Skiba, Mitch Yell, Mary Kay Zabel, and Robert Zabel among many others.

Dr. Wood has received the Council for Exceptional Children J.E. Wallace Wallin Award for a lifetime of contributions to special education. He has also received CCBD's first outstanding leadership award, and the MSLBD Leadership Award. Dr. Wood passed away in December of 2023.

Interviews with Frank Wood appeared in *ReThinking Behavior* in Fall of 2017

(<https://www.pageturnpro.com/Midwest-Symposium-for-Leadership-in-Behavior-Disorders/81890-Rethinking-Behavior/sdefault.html#page/4>), and in *Intervention in School and Clinic* in November 2011. Video of his MSLBD Janus interview is also on the MSLBD website at https://archive.org/details/ConversationWithFrankWood_183.

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