

Bonnie Greenwald McCardell is a community leader whose vision and unwavering focus have helped to make our entire mountaintop stronger and more unified.

In her role as wife of the Vice-Chancellor of the University, Bonnie has opened her home to host countless groups of people: students, parents, staff members, faculty, school children, trustees and regents, alumni, retirees, new arrivals, seminarians and their spouses and partners, honored guests, special visitors, and members of Franklin, Grundy, and Marion counties' various committees. She has made Chen Hall a hub of social activities with students regularly invited there to hear a visiting speaker, to celebrate achievements, or simply to have an evening of conversation. Bonnie has made social occasions at Chen Hall a valuable element of the academic experience offered to Sewanee students. Dinners at Chen Hall are special events, where Bonnie takes care to fit the menu to the occasion, promoting the inclusion of locally produced food whenever possible. Her hospitality day after day has highlighted the best social aspects of Sewanee: the enthusiasm for listening to different opinions, exchanging ideas, and engaging a variety of subjects.

Apart from her role as hostess at Chen Hall, Bonnie has been instrumental in making the Mountain a more unified plateau, shrinking the divide between the University and Franklin, Marion, and Grundy counties. She has seen Sewanee as part of a whole, with the whole being more important than any one part. That shift in perspective is significant, and because of that vision, Bonnie has been critical in moving community discussions forward. Her leadership in this area led to the formation of a steering committee that established the foundation for the South Cumberland Community Fund.

Bonnie was a member of the founding board of the South Cumberland Community Fund and the first chairperson of its Communications Committee. She became Chair of the SCCF Community Development Committee and worked to identify capacity-building programs and to reinforce area nonprofit organizations. Her belief in the wisdom of community nonprofit leaders set the tone for SCCF and attracted key people on the plateau to support its creation.

Bonnie led the Make a Difference Day initiative for SCCF, using that program to help government officials understand the critical role that both SCCF and the government can play in improving area schools. Her vision and focus were responsible for the broad impact realized through the South Cumberland Community Fund's grants and community development work and the SCCF's ground-breaking partnership with the University's Office of Civic Engagement.

Finally, Bonnie was instrumental in creating a working partnership between the South Cumberland Community Fund and the University of the South that has increased the productivity of cooperative civic efforts for both.

Bonnie has consistently worked behind the scenes to enrich our community and support the Sewanee family on the plateau and beyond. She is as likely to be seen making tacos at Altamont's Fannie Moffitt Days or digging a school garden on Make a Difference Day as representing the University at Sewanee events in different cities across the United States. As her husband John has said about her, "I am the horn, but she is the engine." We are grateful to

Bonnie Greenwald McCardell, who, through her wisdom and sustained leadership, has made our plateau a better place to live, work, and dwell together in unity.

Dated this 16th day of June 2020

Robert S. Skirving
Chancellor

Reid Funston
Chair, Board of Regents