



National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity

Unsung Hero Award



This year's Unsung Hero Award is bestowed upon a woman who has been a champion for gender equity throughout her life, and has worked quietly behind the scenes to change the culture to better serve the needs of women, their families, and their communities. While you may not be familiar with her name, the work she has done as a change agent to advance equity in education served as a foundation for the establishment of the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) and set the direction for the work we are doing both nationally and within our member states.

Ms. Charlotte Gore's parents were farmers, and together they worked diligently to send their daughter to college. Oklahoma University awarded Ms. Gore with an academic scholarship, which allowed her to graduate with a degree in Home Economics and become an educator in the public school system.

Ms. Gore's dedication to advancing equity in education led to her employment with the Florida State Department of Education, where she served as the Sex Equity Coordinator and managed initiatives to develop underrepresented students interested in nontraditional careers, provide supportive services needed by displaced homemakers and single parents, and ensure every student had access, opportunity, and the encouragement needed to attain vocational skills that would lead to high-wage, high-skill employment.

In 1989, in response to the states' need for support in carrying out the vocational equity duties prescribed in the federal legislation, Ms. Gore proposed to a group of like-minded individuals (who were then meeting as the Vocational Education Equity Council and have since renamed the group as the Career and Technical Education Equity Council or CTEEC) the concept of the establishment of a consortium of states dedicated to the promotion of equity in vocational education. The idea was to promote equity in education through state collaboration to increase impact on a national level through advocacy, education, and technical support to states. The organization would expand beyond the federal funding to expand partnerships and identify resources from long term sustainability. This idea served as the seed for what would become the National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE). In 1990, NAPE was chartered, and by 1993 it was working on obtaining its nonprofit status.

Today NAPE's programs, products, and services have expanded, but its mission to provide access, equity and diversity in education for all—remains the same. Today we finally sing Ms. Gore's praises in honor of her vision, collaboration, and contribution.