

## **Who was Sharon Gallagher?**

This award is the Sharon Gallagher Scholarship, but who was Sharon Gallagher? Sharon grew up in Holley and Saranac Lake, NY. She graduated from college with honors, served in the U.S. National Guard, and dedicated many years of her successful career to the State University of New York. Sharon Gallagher was memorable because of her passion and dedication to SUNY, and making it the best it could be. Sharon was the first Director of the Training Center in 1989, and a founding member of Conference on Instruction and Technology. She devoted her working career to the success of SUNY, System Administration, and the SUNY Center for Professional Development (formerly the SUNY Training Center). She was seen pushing a cart with an overhead projector to showcase a conference session – which, at the time, was the latest in instructional technology.

Her willingness to help and depth of knowledge left a positive impact on her colleagues and friends. Sandy Cowin noted, Sharon’s “laugh and positive attitude were contagious. She was always cheerful and no matter what she was dealing with, she always did it with a smile.”

Sharon always went above and beyond with her work, and would frequently work until the middle of the night to make sure she had gotten everything done. She was viewed by many as a cheerleader, a coach, and a mentor. Sharon constantly jumped in to projects because something needed to be done, someone needed help, or there was a deadline she wanted to make sure was met. She had no problem taking on additional responsibilities, whenever needed, to ensure successful outcomes not only for herself, but also for others. She was driven and passionate about her work and the people she worked with. If she believed in you, she would do everything in her power to help you.

In addition to her achievements in her academics and her career, Sharon is best remembered for her love for her family and friends, philanthropic nature, fun-loving spirit, and compassion for the environment. On November 25, 2016, Sharon passed away in her home in Tucson, Arizona, after a series of illnesses.