

Linda Black, who lives in Belton, Texas, began teaching in 1972. Her areas of expertise are world history education and teacher education. Today, she is Chair of the Curriculum & Instruction Department at Texas A&M University-Central Texas. She is also chair of the NCSS Publications Committee.

Q. What teaching success or career achievement are you most proud of?

A. I am very proud of receiving the Texas Council for the Social Studies Secondary Teacher of the Year award, and then following up as the NCSS Secondary Teacher of the Year Award, because these awards were from my peers and organizations in which I truly believe. I am also very proud that I served as editor for 12 years of the *Social Studies Texan*, the journal for social studies teachers in Texas.

Q. When and why did you join NCSS?

A. I joined NCSS sometime in the late 1970s or early 1980s because I loved teaching history and found that I could

obtain all kinds of cool, engaging, and relevant lessons and instructional strategies through attending NCSS conferences and using *Social Education*. It made my teaching so much better, especially as a new teacher just starting out.

Q. How has being part of a professional association like

NCSS enriched your career?

A. As a young teacher, attending my first Texas Council for the Social Studies conference and then my first NCSS conference, I found so many ideas, lessons, and hands-on activities that I would continue to use throughout my career. I was hooked. As a social studies educator and now a university professor working with the next generation of teachers, joining these two groups would be the best and most significant action I took in my career. 📌



Dr. Linda Black (left) with former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor at an iCivics event in Austin.

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