

UNC CHARLOTTE CHANCELLOR

Dr. Sharon L. Gaber



Sharon L. Gaber, Ph.D., is the fifth chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Known as North Carolina's urban research university, it leverages its location in the state's largest city to offer internationally competitive programs of research and creative activity, exemplary undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, and a focused set of community engagement initiatives. UNC Charlotte maintains a particular commitment to addressing the cultural, economic, educational, environmental, health, and social needs of the greater Charlotte region.

With a student population of more than 30,000 (due to a 33% increase in enrollment since 2009), it is the fastest-growing — and second-largest — institution in the 17-member University of North Carolina System. Its diverse student body, 37% of whom are first-generation college students, comes from 47 states and 105 countries.

A native of Southern California, Gaber earned an A.B. in Economics and Urban Studies from Occidental College, an M.P.L. in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California, and a Ph.D. in City & Regional Planning from Cornell University.

Prior to her arrival at UNC Charlotte, Gaber served for five years as the President of the University of Toledo, where she was nationally recognized for her efforts to increase enrollment, improve graduation and retention rates, keep education affordable, increase research funding, improve connection to the surrounding metro region and make the campus environment diverse and inclusive. Earlier in her career, she served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas. She has also served as an interim provost at Auburn University and a faculty member and administrator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

An academic with a background in city and regional planning, Gaber has written numerous articles on regional and urban planning, public policy and the social dynamics that affect community decision-making. She is also co-author of a book on planning research methods. She was recently named to the Business North Carolina 2021 Power List, and in 2020 she received the YWCA Northwest Ohio Milestone Award for women's leadership. She was designated by Education Dive as one of five higher education leaders to watch in 2018 and beyond. Deeply engaged in community and regional activities, she has served on multiple NCAA committees, and she was recently appointed to the Executive Committee of Conference USA. She is a member of the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, Women Executives, and the International Women's Forum – Carolinas.

Officially the first woman to serve as chancellor of UNC Charlotte, Gaber follows the trail blazed by founding educator Bonnie Cone, who led the institution from 1946-1966 through several stages of growth.

Dr. Gaber is the proud mother of three adult children.