

UNC CHARLOTTE CHANCELLOR DR. SHARON L. GABER



Sharon L. Gaber, Ph.D., serves as the fifth Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the Charlotte region's public research university.

With more than 30,000 students, Charlotte is the third largest institution in the University of North Carolina System and is nationally ranked as a top performer in social mobility.

Since Gaber arrived as Chancellor in 2020, the University has embarked on "Shaping What's Next," a bold 10-year strategic plan that articulates a new vision as a globally recognized top-tier research university. The University also was recognized for its innovative response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, receiving a 2021 Excellence and Innovation Award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU).

Charlotte also has seen a dramatic rise in its national profile, achieving a coveted position among the nation's top 100 public universities, according to U.S. News & World's Best Colleges 2024 rankings.

An academic with a background in city and regional planning, Gaber was named by Education Dive as one of five higher education leaders to watch in 2018 and beyond. Gaber is the author of several articles on regional and urban planning, public policy, and the social dynamics that affect community decision-making. She is also the co-author of a book on planning research methods.

In 2022, Gaber received the Career Mastered Distinguished Leadership Award and was named to The Charlotte Business Journal's inaugural Power 100 list, as one of the top 10 leaders who will drive Charlotte's next stage of growth. She has also been named to Business North Carolina's Power List for three consecutive years (2021, 2022 and 2023).

Deeply engaged in community and regional activities, she is a member of the Leading on Opportunity Council, the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, Women Executives, and the International Women's Forum – Carolinas. She has also been tapped to serve on the Board of Directors of Project Kitty Hawk.

Gaber has served on multiple NCAA committees, as member of the Conference USA Executive Committee, and now on the American Athletic Conference Executive Committee. She is the first UNC System chancellor to serve as a member of Excelencia in Education's Presidents for Latino Student Success.

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 and graduation rates, boost research funding 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 administrator and interim provost at Auburn University and a faculty member and administrator at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

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.

Gaber is the proud mother of three children: Allison, Peter and Jen (dec).

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 1946-66 through several stages of growth.