

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 31,000 enrolled students, Charlotte is the third largest institution in the University of North Carolina System and is nationally recognized for its innovative approach to student success.

Since Gaber arrived as Chancellor in 2020, the University has embarked on a bold 10-year strategic plan that articulates a new vision to drive discovery and innovation for the region as a globally recognized public research university. With record research expenditures, Charlotte is projected to earn the nation's top research designation, Carnegie R1, in early 2025.

Driven by rising student and research success metrics, Charlotte has reached new heights in the national rankings. Since 2020, Charlotte is one of the top 10 fastest-rising universities in the nation, according to U.S. News & World Report, rising 76 spots overall. For 2025, Charlotte ranks No. 81 among U.S. public universities and as the most innovative public university in North Carolina, at No. 45 nationally.

In 2024, Gaber was named to The Charlotte Business Journal's Power 100, which recognized the region's top innovators. She also has been named to Business North Carolina's Power List for four consecutive years. In addition, Education Dive named Gaber one of five higher education leaders to watch in 2018, and she received the Career Mastered Distinguished Leadership Award in 2022.

Deeply engaged in community and regional activities, she serves on the board of Charlotte Center City Partners and is a member of the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, Women Executives, the International Women's Forum – Carolinas, and Charlotte's Leading on Opportunity Council. She was also tapped to serve on the board of the UNC System's Project Kitty Hawk.

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

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.

An academic with a background in city and regional planning, 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.

Prior to her arrival at UNC Charlotte, Gaber served for five years as president of the University of Toledo, where she was nationally recognized for her efforts to increase enrollment and graduation rates, boost research funding and empower students of all backgrounds to succeed.

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.

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.

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