

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. A major milestone was achieved in February 2025 when Charlotte earned the nation's top research designation, Carnegie R1.

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, advancing 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.

Gaber was named one of the Charlotte Business Journal's Most Admired CEOs in 2021 and was featured on the publication's prestigious Power 100 list in both 2022 and 2024, highlighting the region's top innovators. Additionally, she has earned a spot on Business North Carolina's Power List for four consecutive years. In 2022 she received the Career Mastered Distinguished Leadership Award, and earlier in her career, Education Dive recognized her as one of five higher education leaders to watch in 2018 and beyond.

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.

At the national level, Gaber has served on multiple NCAA committees and currently 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).