

Virginia Narlock

We are happy to name Dr. Virginia (Ginny) Narlock the 77th inductee in Marshfield's 150: Heroes and Leaders, Past and Present register. Ginny Narlock was nominated by her former students, alumni of Marshfield Laboratory Education Programs.

Virginia (Ginny) Narlock was an extraordinary individual who spent her entire career as a medical technologist (1962 – 2003) at Marshfield Laboratories. She served as Blood Bank supervisor from 1964 until 1975 when she went on to become program director for five clinical student programs at Marshfield Laboratories, then a joint venture of St. Joseph's Hospital and the Marshfield Clinic; one of many shared services and cooperative efforts of the Marshfield medical complex at the time.



Ginny received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Medical Technology in 1962 and Master of Education Degree in Professional Development in 1981, both from UW-Eau Claire. In 1991 she earned her Ph.D. in Education from UW Madison.

As program director Ginny often provided a first impression of the laboratory and its staff to students considering a laboratory career. Potential applicants toured the lab to better understand the role of each specialty area, while also getting a first-hand look at Ginny as a communicator and listener. Two attributes that contributed to her success as an educator.

As program director, she set the pace for delivering educational materials while ensuring that students met the required competencies in each of the various teaching sections. Within these sections she established teaching teams, made up of technologists and pathologists, who worked together to prepare and present lectures, review student work, answer questions and write exams. Other department members participated in this team approach by verifying and discussing students' cases, answering questions and acting as an additional resource.

A dedicated professional educator, Ginny brought hundreds of young professionals to Marshfield, many of whom stayed on to staff the Marshfield Laboratories, continuing her reputation of excellence here. While still others took their new skillset and the Marshfield Laboratories reputation to other laboratories around the state, country and even world.

Ginny was an adjunct faculty member at multiple 4-year universities in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan, and Iowa as well as six technical colleges in Wisconsin. She shared her expertise in blood bank, cytotechnology, histotechnology, and phlebotomy with laboratorians at the state and national levels.

Ginny's involvement with laboratory medicine and education led her to serve on the Wisconsin Association for Medical Technology (WAMT), a forerunner of today's American Society of Clinical Laboratory Scientists-WI, convention committees, coordinated Student Bowls, taught phlebotomy and educator workshops, and served as WAMT President from 1987-88. She was honored as

WAMT Member of the Year in 1990. Nationally, she received the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP), Associate Member Section (AMS), Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002, was part of the ASCP-AMS Educators Committee (1996-2002), and the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences (NAACLS) Program Approval Committee (1995-2003).

Ginny retired from Marshfield Laboratories on January 3, 2003. Locally she remained active with the Red Cross, played baritone saxophone with the Marshfield Civic Band, and enjoyed volunteering for the Marshfield Senior Craft Shoppe and following the Packers, Brewers and Badgers.

As graduates of Marshfield Laboratories Education Programs, we appreciate the long-standing financial support and dedication of Administrations representing Marshfield Laboratories and St. Joseph's Hospital and Marshfield Clinic. We also appreciate the efforts of faculty and advisors from our schools and universities preparing us for the educational experiences at Marshfield Laboratories under the direction of Dr. Virginia Narlock, and with the laboratory's talented teaching teams.

Dr. Narlock passed away January 8, 2021, at the Marshfield Medical Center. Covid precautions precluded a gathering of former friends, coworkers and students at her funeral, but she was, and is, remembered fondly. As our instructor, her passion for laboratory medicine became our own and her commitment to our success made us successful. She was indeed extraordinary.