

In Memoriam

Dr. Linda Wark

Linda Wark, a professor in the Department of Human Services, passed away on July 13, 2022. Linda was a licensed family therapist and she was certified as a human services board-certified practitioner. She earned her bachelor degree in Psychology from Purdue University as well as her masters in Family Studies and her PhD in Marriage and Family Therapy. From 1994 to 1998 she taught at Northern Illinois University. She then served as the executive director of the Thera-play Institute in Chicago from 1999 to 2002. Linda was a faculty member at Purdue University in Fort Wayne from 2002 until 2021, when she retired. During her tenure at the university, she served in various positions.

Linda was highly involved in the National Organization of Human Services where she chaired the national ethics committee and served as a senior reviewer for national conferences. In 2004 she received the National Organization for Human Services' Professional Development Award and in 2012 she received the National Organization for Human Services' President's Award for Service. Linda was also recognized locally for her service and for her teaching. In 2012 and again in 2016 she received Excellence in Teaching Awards. In 2017 she received the College of Health and Human Services' Award for Service. Linda earned promotion to full professor in 2018 based on her dedication to the field of human services and to her students.

In addition to her service and teaching, Linda was an avid writer. She was known at the national level for her numerous publications on ethics in the field of human services and on play therapy. In addition, she presented annually at regional and national conferences.

For several years, Dr. Wark was the conference coordinator for the National Organization of Human Services Tau Upsilon Alpha Honor Society. In 2009, she began a local chapter of TUA for the Department of Human Services. For ten years she mentored students in the honor society and helped the student organization grow and its members be recognized at several national conferences.

Linda will perhaps be remembered most for her endearing dedication to her students.

