

Mary Beaty Edelen '65  
Director, Cottey Clubs and Development Chair

Mary is a native of Vermillion, South Dakota, and graduated from Vermillion High School. She then attended Cottey where she lived in Colorado Minear suite and graduated with the Class of 1965. Mary served two years as the Class Agent for the Class of 1965, was selected to receive the Cottey College Distinguished Alumna Award in 1995, served for four years beginning in 2012 on the CCAA Executive Board, and she also served on Cottey's Defining Moment Steering Committee for Giving.

She received a B.A. degree in History in 1967 from the University of South Dakota where she was active in many university organizations including being elected to the position of vice president of the Chi Omega sorority; assistant business manager for the *Volante*, the school newspaper; a member of Guidon, a Sophomore honorary; and a member of Phi Alpha Theta, a history honorary. She attended Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas, receiving a Master's degree in History in 1971. It was while Mary was at Trinity that she met her future husband, Joe, and they were married in 1968. She became a lecturer in the USD Department of History and then taught at Yankton College prior to its closure.

Mary was elected to the South Dakota State House of Representatives in 1972 and served a total of 18 years. Governor William Janklow asked her to serve as the Director of the South Dakota State Historical Society from 1995-2003.

She has belonged or served the following organizations: National Order of Women Legislators (president); DACOWITS (Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services as an appointee of Pres. Reagan in 1987; American Nurses Credentialing Center from 2002-2008 and received ANCC's Credentialing Advocacy Partner Award in 2008; actively served on the Girl Scout Board of Directors for Sioux Trails Council for 10 years before reorganization and now as a member of the Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa; University of South Dakota Alumni Association Board and the USD Foundation; SD Conference of the United Church of Christ where she served as moderator for two years as well as the Two Rivers Association moderator; the Vermillion City Council where she represented Vermillion at an international conference in Ratigan, Germany, which is Vermillion's Sister City; the Congregational Church UCC, Vermillion; she served as president of Rotary and is a current active member; is a member of the SD Nurses Foundation which is involved in a \$500,000 fundraising campaign to raise money for nursing scholarships and for research grants; is an honorary member of Mortar Board; and an Alumni Member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Mary served as president of P.E.O. Chapter E and is currently chaplain and chair of the Cottey College committee. She is also a 50-year member of P.E.O.

Joe and Mary have been married for 51 years, and have three children, Audra, a nurse at the Vermillion Care Center; Anthony, who owns and operates a carpet cleaning and disaster restoration company in Vermillion; and Jarrod, who works as an Investment Advisor in the SD Investment Council. They also have six grandchildren.

Her passions include running half marathons, working out, reading, being involved with her grandchildren, and being an active and involved member of her community.