

1991

Beverly (Walter) Kelley

Class of 1952



Beverly (Walter) Kelley was a dedicated and accomplished special education teacher.

Seeing the potential for greatness in every child and frustrated with the traditional classroom approaches for students with learning problems, she created the "Resource Room" concept for helping these special needs children in the New Providence (New Jersey) School District, beginning in 1963.

Becoming a partner with classroom teachers in identifying problems some students faced, she used new methods to improve their performances in particular subject areas. For example, for the boy who learned better with his ears than with his eyes, she made tapes of the material and taught him to read aloud "in silence." The Prescriptive Teaching Workshop was successful. Test scores

went up as well as the students' self-esteem. With a high school graduation rate of more than 96 percent, Kelley's school district became the prototype for schools across New Jersey.

Kelley was recognized in January 1990 when she was presented the Albert Einstein Education Award by New Jersey Governor Thomas H. Kean. The award recognized accomplishments and leadership in special education in New Jersey public schools.

She passed away June 10, 2009.