

Recipients of the 2019 Gov. Holshouser Award for Excellence in Public Service



Dr. Mark I. West is UNC Charlotte's chair and a full professor in the Department of English. During his nearly 36-year career, he has developed a reputation as one of the pioneers in the field of children's literature. Throughout his career, Dr. West has advocated for early childhood literacy, in his classrooms as well as in his community. He is known not only for his impactful research and expertise, but also for his excellence in teaching and his dedication to area school districts and the Charlotte community. He regularly collaborates with the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public Library and organizes important cultural events for the public.

In 2010, he collaborated with a former librarian to produce A Tribute to Novello, a three-day grassroots literary event that celebrated the act of reading and featured well-known authors and community leaders, who donated their time for author panels, readings and book signings. Since 2015, he has served on the planning committee of the Library Foundation's EpicFest, a free literary event for families, children and teens.

His academic career is marked with achievement and distinction: He recipient of the Bonnie E. Cone Professorship in Civic Engagement Award and the Anne Devereaux Jordan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Children's Literature. Dr. West has authored, co-authored or edited 16 books. He is the author of 60 articles that appeared in both scholarly journals in popular publications.



Dr. Martin Posey is a professor in UNC Wilmington's Department of Biology and Marine Biology, having served in the department since 1989. He previously served as director of the UNCW Center for Marine Science and was associate vice chancellor and dean of undergraduate studies. Dr. Posey's three-decades-long career has been devoted to university outreach and service, through which he has translated his academic expertise into policy and management. Much of his engagement work is focused on addressing the variety of challenges facing coastal areas, including resource management and sustainability issues.

He has served on the NC Marine Fisheries Commission, the Coastal Resources Commission Scientific Panel on Coastal Hazards, and the NC Division of Marine Fisheries Crustacean Fisheries Advisory Committee, among others. He has collaborated with, or offered his expertise to, community and non-profit organizations, among them the NC Coastal Federation, the Cape Fear River Organization, and the Lower Cape Fear River Program.

Dr. Posey has been devoted to enhancing education connections between UNCW and the community, notably with K-12 schools. He has been active in Project Quest, which provides hands-on learning experiences for middle school students in underserved regions. He has also helped to organize the Planet Oceans seminar series, which brings local and national researchers together to discuss coastal issues.