

# Karen L. Kelley Wellbaum

Karen Kelley Wellbaum is a Northridge graduate who has achieved much in her chosen field of horticulture education.

Born in 1941, Karen graduated from NHS in 1959. At NHS she was the 1958 homecoming queen. She was president of the GAA 1958-1959, and was a cheerleader from 1956 to 1959.

In 1980, Karen received her teaching certification in horticulture from the Ohio State University and began her career in horticulture at the Montgomery County Joint Vocational School (now the Miami Valley Career Training Center). She retired in 2002.

During her 22 years of teaching and as the FFA advisor, Karen earned many awards and honors including the following: 1985—District New Professional Award Winner; 1986—District Outstanding Young Teacher; 1988—Ohio Horticulture Teacher of the Year; 1994—selected for the American/Russian Educational Exchange; 1995—Junior Achievement Teacher Fellowship; 2000—Ohio Outstanding Agriculture Teacher of the Year; 2001—Ohio Association for Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year; 2001 National Association for Career and Technical Education Regional Teacher of the Year.

In 2000 Karen, along with several of her students, was invited to the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California, to be a float designer, while the students were student designers.

"Northridge High School has inspired many successful individuals over the years," said Karen. "I would like to extend much gratitude to the Northridge faculty, community, and my family for the encouragement, motivation, and education I received that has enabled me to have the excellent opportunities that I have had in my life."