Professor Peggy Falkenstein joined the Sinclair full-time Sociology faculty in 1976 and retired as Dean of Distance Learning in 2003. During her 27-year tenure at Sinclair, Peggy created a remarkable record of professional activity that continues to benefit not only Sinclair Community College and its students, but also the national distance education community.

Professor Falkenstein’s exemplary work at Sinclair covers activity in the Department of Sociology, the Faculty Senate, and as instructor and, later, Dean of Distance Learning. As evidenced by her numerous awards, Professor Falkenstein performed at a level of excellence few professors are able to attain.

Peggy was a respected and effective professor in the Department of Sociology. During her time in that department, she served as co-chair of its part-time faculty committee and was among the first Sinclair faculty members to adapt her courses to a distance format. Peggy maintained her commitment to the field of sociology and classroom teaching even after her official employment changed to leadership in Distance Learning, when she continued to teach as part of the Sociology faculty.

A significant indicator of Professor Falkenstein’s involvement outside the classroom included service as a Senator and later as President of the Faculty Senate, where respect for her integrity and rational leadership maintained a good working relationship between the faculty and administration.

Peggy Falkenstein is most closely identified with her role as a local and national leader in the field of distance education. She began as one of the first videotape course developers and instructors at Sinclair. In 1984 she was given the leadership role in the new program and, over the next eleven years, Professor Falkenstein grew the program to such a degree that it was given division status and she was appointed to the dean position.

Sinclair was represented by Professor Falkenstein on regional and national conference panels, and many individuals who came to participate as audience members at those panels did so because of the name recognition she had among distance educators. She was known for her meticulous preparation and ability to make important connections between theory
and practice vividly clear to others. Remaining at the helm of the growing Distance Learning Division until her retirement in 2003, Professor Peggy Falkenstein saw enrollments in Sinclair distance programs surpass all other Ohio colleges and universities. In 2003 she was recognized for her lifetime achievement in the field of distance education by the Instructional Telecommunications Council, the preeminent national distance learning consortium.

The work that Peggy Falkenstein did in distance education was innovative and pioneering and serves as the foundation of our current Distance Learning Division. Her vision and dedication continue to support student access and success at Sinclair Community College.