Professor Linda O'Keefe taught at Sinclair Community College for 15 years from 1994 to 2009. Linda O'Keefe had an impact on student lives. She had a gift for helping student achieve more than they imaged. Former students like Valerie Sorrels and physical education graduate would stop by to see Coach O'Keefe. After finishing her Bachelor's degree at Wright State she was eager to share her many experiences with Linda. Other former physical education students would frequently ask about Linda.

As a professor in Exercise, Nutrition & Sport Sciences department, Linda created several courses including: Methods of Teaching Sport Skills and the History of Sport and Physical Education (PED 263). She worked extensively with the University of Dayton in the creation of PED 236 to make sure we could transfer credits to UD for our students. She was passionate about teaching and instituted service learning in her courses before service was “cool.” She included debates, service learning campus visitations, games, research projects, and guest speakers such as Ann Azalone, a professor at Wright State, a national speaker and author on the connection between physical activity, brain development and learning readiness.

Linda founded and mentored students in the Physical Education Club, which has grown to become the Exercise Science/Physical Education Club. The club has been involved in service projects that include the Beerman Foundation Thanksgiving Day dinner, Special Olympics, Senior Olympics, and raising funds and walking in the annual “Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” walk. Being a breast cancer survivor multiple times might be a great excuse for some to retire, but Linda chose to return to educate and work with students time after time.

She also served on the national committee for National Association of Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) and American Alliance of Health. Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD) evaluating top programs across the country competing in programs of excellence in Physical Education. She was a professional member of the Ohio Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (OAHPERD) and found a way for students to volunteer at the convention, which allowed them to attend as a more reasonable rate. Linda was a professional member of the Intercollegiate Tennis Association and attended the annual convention often, bringing back ideas for teaching and developing students through tennis.
In addition to outstanding teaching and service to students, Linda has coached several of our collegiate athletic teams including Women’s Tennis and Women’s Basketball. She holds the title of the “Winningest Coach in Sinclair History.” She has coached more NJCCA All-Americans than any other coach at Sinclair. Between coaching tennis and basketball, she was Coach of the Year in our region a total of 19 times. She took the tennis team and basketball team to the National tournament 17 out of 18 years and had a perfect season in basketball losing only in the National Tournament. Her Women’s Basketball team attended the NJCAA National tournament twice. She was a member of the University of Dayton Athletic Hall of Fame and is in the Dayton Tennis Foundation Hall of Fame. The awards on display in our trophy cases in building 8 contain 17 regional championships in tennis including tournament champs, district runner-ups, several regiona; championships and a Co-Champ for the state in Women’s Basketball.

Linda was truly devoted and passionate about teaching, had an ongoing interest in how people communicate, and brought that knowledge and best practice to Sinclair.