



Who is Dr. Esther M. Mackintosh '69?

Dr. Esther M. Mackintosh '69 is president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils, the membership association of the 56 state and territorial humanities councils. The Federation supports the work of the councils and strives to create greater awareness of the value of the humanities in public and private life. Mackintosh joined the staff of the Federation in 1986 and has served as president since 2004.

She received her BA in English from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa, in 1969, and has served as a member of its Board of Directors since 2010. She has a doctorate in American literature from Kansas State University. Mackintosh is an advocate for liberal arts education, the humanities, and Morningside College.

Securing America's Future: The Power of a Liberal Arts Education

"The education I received at Morningside College gave me a way of seeing the world that I wouldn't have had without a foundation in the liberal arts.

I grew up on a farm near a very tiny town and attended a small high school. While I received a good educational foundation, what I didn't get was strong encouragement to think critically and independently.

"This changed significantly when I arrived at Morningside, where the faculty challenged me from the beginning. 'What do you think?' was a question put to me regularly, and while it was initially unnerving, it shook me out of some comfortable patterns. Morningside was, in the most positive sense, like living in a small town. I couldn't be invisible, and there was no place to hide. Professors always took notice and knew when I wasn't challenging myself.

"Learning about cultures and traditions that were new to me was a hallmark of my college education.

Without my experience at Morningside, I'm sure I wouldn't have dared to venture as far afield as I have over the course of my career. I lived and worked for two years in Saudi Arabia, for example, where my friends and colleagues came from Great Britain, Pakistan, Egypt, Syria, and Somalia, among other countries. I would not have been able to embrace this experience as fully, I'm convinced, without my Morningside education.

"The interaction with professors that was possible for me at a liberal arts college like Morningside also helped advance my thinking and modeled for me a way of dealing with others in a professional situation. In my current position as a nonprofit executive, I still draw on specifics of these exchanges and relationships. This has helped me professionally and personally throughout my career."

DR. ESTHER M. MACKINTOSH '69 ENDOWED HUMANITIES SCHOLAR OF THE COLLEGE

What is an Endowed Scholar of the College?

An endowed scholar of the college is a permanently established, tenured faculty position that is funded by the income generated through an endowed fund. Morningside College can use this position of honor to reward its best faculty or to recruit top professors nationwide.

Why in the Humanities?

The humanities are the heart of a well-rounded education. Recent studies have shown that exposure to the humanities builds skills that lead to professional success, promotes greater job satisfaction, and proves beneficial in creating more engaged citizens. The study of the humanities—including history, literature, languages, philosophy, and religion—provides us with the ideas, interpretive tools, language, and perspective we need to understand each other. It opens us up to the variety and accumulated wisdom of human experience, allowing us to engage with places, times, cultures, and ways of thinking different from our own. In this way, they cultivate empathy and imagination.

Through the humanities, we learn habits of respectful listening and deliberation, as well as the ability to analyze, communicate, and write clearly and effectively. The humanities play an integral role in encouraging responsible citizenship.

What does this mean for Morningside?

The Dr. Esther M. Mackintosh '69 Humanities Scholar of the College (MHSOC) will be a tenured associate or full professor who brings a transformative mindset that redefines the role of the humanities at Morningside College. He or she will lead in the creation of a new vision for the relevance of the humanities in the 21st century, emphasizing experiential learning and the digital humanities.

This professor will mentor and advise students to connect their Morningside College experience with their own goals and motivations, assist them in articulating and demonstrating the value of their learning, and create experiential opportunities for them to integrate the essential skills and knowledge acquired within their courses and co-curricular activities directly to their lives and careers beyond college. The MHSOC will engage in interdisciplinary research that relates to big issues and real-world problems and will have the ability to do public scholarship, connecting with external groups and creating and circulating knowledge addressing community needs.

How can you help?

You too can support the humanities, liberal arts education, Morningside College and Esther Mackintosh by making a gift in support of this endowed professorship today.



The Morningside College experience cultivates a passion for lifelong learning and a dedication to ethical leadership and civic responsibility.

Kari Winklepleck
Vice President for Institutional Advancement
Morningside College
1501 Morningside Avenue
Sioux City, Iowa 51106
712-274-5450 or 800-831-0806, ext. 5450
bull@morningside.edu
morningside.edu