

**John L. Sanders**  
**Doctor of Laws**

In nearly forty years at UNC's Institute of Government (which later became the School of Government), John L. Sanders worked tirelessly to advance this unit's mission as a research assistant, a professor, and ultimately the Institute's director.

He has been described by colleagues as the measure of "what it means to be a North Carolinian." William Friday once called him "North Carolina's unsung hero." Without expectations of recognition, he has quietly devoted a lifetime of service to our state and University. He worked extensively with legislative commissions to reorganize state government, revise the state's constitution, and expand access to higher education. He more than doubled the size of the faculty at the Institute throughout his term as director, furthering its ability to provide education for our state's public officials.

Prof. Sanders's footprint of service extends beyond the School of Government. As Vice President for Planning with the UNC System, he drafted the first affirmative-action and long-range planning documents for our state's consolidated universities. In so doing he succeeded in helping move our state forward while protecting the best of its past. He chaired our University's Building and Grounds Committee for many years and also led the State Capitol Foundation in restoring this landmark building.

His selfless public service has played a vital role in shaping our state's legislation, higher education, and sense of history.