

Geraldine Sayward Scholarship

Dr. Amy Sayward, history professor and former chair of the MTSU History Department, established this scholarship in honor of her grandmother, Mrs. Geraldine Sayward.

Biography

Monica Geraldine Cordick Sayward graduated as valedictorian from Plattsburgh State Normal College in 1930. In addition, she was the primary caretaker of her family after her mother passed away in 1929. She was also active in her campus community, serving as Assistant Editor-in-Chief of the *Cardinal* Yearbook, as Secretary of the Senior Class, and as President of Delta Clio. Geraldine Cordick was also named the "Best Girl Speaker" by her class. In her valedictory address, she stated,

“We, as teachers, must be the examples, the models, if our pupils are to live wisely and well. We are helping them to prepare for life. If they are to have high ideals, worthy ambitions, wholesome attitudes, we must have them ourselves. This is a far more difficult assignment than the syllabus, but, may I say, by far more important.”

She practiced the craft of teaching and of life in exactly the same manner. She began her career in a one-room schoolhouse before shifting to Willsboro Central School, where "Mrs. Sayward" educated two generations, finishing her career as a sixth-grade teacher. She retired when she realized that it was August and she was not yet excited to return to school - in 1973. Throughout her long life, she was a pillar of her family, church, and community and although she lived in a small town, she read voraciously and maintained a high level of awareness of global affairs.

