

Emeritus Professor Noeline Alcorn – biographical information

The Noeline Alcorn Leadership Development Grant for Women provides financial support to academic, professional and administrative women ready to take on leadership responsibilities who have insufficient institutional funding to attend women-in-leadership training or conferences that suit their role and career.

Emeritus Professor Noeline Alcorn has had a long career in leadership, education and promoting educational opportunities for women. She has two daughters and a son and two granddaughters. Noeline was awarded a Suffrage Medal in 1993 and a QSO in 2006. Other honours include life memberships of the New Zealand Educational Research Association and the Auckland University Principals' Centre. She is a Fellow of the New Zealand Educational Leadership and Administration Society, and was named a member of the Samuel Marsden School Hall of Fame in 2012.

Noeline was born in Wellington. She went to Karori West School for four years and then Samuel Marsden Collegiate School in Wellington before completing a BA in English and History at the Victoria University of Wellington (1960) and a MA in English at the University of Canterbury (1962). She also has a Dip Ed from Massey University.



Noeline taught English and History in two New Zealand secondary schools before completing her doctoral studies at the University of California Irvine (1971), where she wrote a thesis on the novels of Doris Lessing. On returning to New Zealand, Noeline joined the staff of Auckland Teachers College in a variety of roles, before moving to the University of Auckland in 1985 as Director of the Centre for Continuing Education, where she established a new Certificate in Women's Studies and the Auckland University Principals Centre. In 1992, Noeline joined the University of Waikato as the Dean of the School of Education as it transitioned from a teachers' college to a university faculty. After 14 years as Dean, she joined the Wilf Malcolm Institute of Educational Research. While there, she took part in a Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade sponsored development project in the Solomon Islands and acted as a research mentor to several staff.



Her publications include a biography of Dr Clarence Beeby, Director of Education 1940-60, a history of the University of Waikato over its first fifty years, a history of the New Zealand Teachers' Council, and a wide range of articles covering children's literature, teacher education, New Zealand education policy and history, and educational leadership. She has also encouraged other researchers as a PhD supervisor, established new journals and initiated and edited a book of research studies by Solomon Island educators.

Noeline has held several national roles in New Zealand education including President of the New Zealand Children's Literature Association, Chair of the New Zealand Council for Educational Research, Inaugural Chair of the Teacher Education Forum of Aotearoa New Zealand, Chair of the Education Panel for a round of the Performance Based Research Fund Assessment, and Chair of the Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards Committee. In addition, she was a member of the National Executive of the Federation of Graduate Women and Secretary of its Charitable Trust 2007-2009.

Noeline joined the Awards Committee of the Trust Waikato Graduate Women's Educational Trust in the mid-1990s and served continuously till 2021, acting as convener of the Awards committee from 2006-2013. She was on the Board of the Trust from 2006-2022 and chair from 2012-2018.