

Some people are simply born with the ability to lead. They have the charisma, intellect and desire to change the world for the better; David Silcox is one of those people. It was at New Ulm High School that Dave found success in academics and athletics. Those formative years helped shape him into the person he is today. In part, he attributes his success to his time at NUHS as it was the teachers there that gave him confidence to succeed and the tools to do so.

After high school Dave went on to St. Olaf College where he earned his degree in chemistry; he furthered his education with a master's degree in chemistry from Purdue University and a doctorate in leadership and administration from Arizona State University. His teaching career began in La Crosse, Wisc. He then moved on to a teaching position at Central High School in Phoenix, Ariz. where he also coached boys' tennis and was the assistant football coach. He remained the head boys' tennis coach for 23 years with an impressive winning record of 271 wins, 33 losses. His career in education led to Dave being named director of the District Level Magnet Program, then principal at three different Phoenix high schools until his retirement in 2008.

Dave's steadfast commitment to education led to him being honored by the Governor of Arizona, Rose Mofford as she proclaimed Oct. 19, 1990 as Dave Silcox Day. He was recognized for his leadership as principal of Phoenix Central High School, as he established the school as a model among high schools across the nation. This is just one example of the recognitions that Dave has received over the years for the work in bettering the schools in which he served. While he was principal the dropout rates dropped, test scores went up, students and staff morale vastly improved. His leadership paved the way for a more positive learning environment for the students resulting in increased student performance and achievement. The impact that Dave has had on the educational community in the city of Phoenix is profound.

While Dave moved away from New Ulm decades ago, his roots remain here. That's evident in his e-mail address that begins with "nulm." He built friendships in this town years ago and has continued to foster those bonds.

From a young man entering the hallowed halls of NUHS so many years ago, embarking on a life long journey in learning, evolving into a teacher and leader, to the man Dave is today; the value of a good education has been a hallmark throughout all that he has accomplished.