



2001 was a rough year for college presidents. The market had plunged and as such college leaders were feeling the associated pressures. Each morning during her readings, she would identify good leaders who were struggling through circumstances not of their doing. At her urging, we would then divide the list up and email, text or call each with encouragement. In some cases, it involved follow up for several months. And many of these colleagues have become friends for life.

These are the actions of my trusted colleague, steadfast mentor and true friend. These are the actions of someone who will be there for you when the chips are down. Someone who wants to see you succeed and will go out of her way to help you do so. That was Weezie, a true Super Nun.

At last count she had, in addition to her earned doctorate, 45 honorary doctoral degrees — representing the respect she held within the higher education community. I wonder if those of us celebrating Weezie today have 45 collective honorary degrees.

When we think about honorary degrees from 45 institutions of higher learning, think of how many students that represents... How many lives she touched...How many doors she opened... How many pathways she forged...