

## To stand among the best

To stand among the best  
Of those who share passion  
With scores of anxious minds  
Would be a dream fulfilled.

To know a field so well  
That finding new puzzles  
Becomes a joyful game  
And not cause for alarm.

To understand learning  
As something built not sent.  
To send off gatekeepers,  
Then help and encourage.

To formulate problems  
That appeal and engage  
In struggle that inspires  
With natural labor.

To have faith in success  
After coming up short.  
To give frequent feedback  
Before making judgment.

To trust and be humble  
Treating all with respect  
As classroom discussion  
Becomes dining room chat.

To stand among the best  
Rub shoulders with Plato,  
Buddha, Montessori,  
Aquinas and Black Elk.

To stand among the best  
Takes a splendid journey  
With highpoints and setbacks  
And there are miles to go.

*Chris Clark, May 30, 2005 - Wakonse Conference on College Teaching*