

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