

Dr. Chris Clark is being honored by
GFWC Zion Woman's Club

Dr. Chris Clark is a lifelong resident of the Zion-Benton community who, as a young married mother of two, left an executive assistant position in corporate America to serve her high school alma mater—Zion-Benton Twp. High School District 126. She entered District 126 as a member of the district's executive staff, and during her 26-year tenure she advanced to serve as the district's Assistant Superintendent for Business and ultimately Superintendent during her final 12 years. While employed by District 126 and raising her family, Dr. Clark attained her bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, and her Chief School Business Official and Superintendent credentials, qualifying her to serve as the district's CFO and CEO.

While superintendent, Dr. Clark led the development and implementation of three multi-year strategic plans designed to address a projected 35-percent growth in enrollment, improve staff development initiatives, expand programming to meet the needs of the district's growing diverse population, and overcome several financial challenges. District 126 now has a second four-year high school, expanded interventions and academic programming, tuition-free dual credit college courses, and improved facilities, providing additional classrooms, support offices, athletic/extracurricular facilities, a college and career center, a performing arts center, and a new aquatics center currently under construction. The district also improved to Illinois' highest financial recognition status for the past 12 years.

Dr. Clark is delighted that numerous young women have and will continue to benefit from the collaborative accomplishments achieved by District 126's School Board, administration, and dedicated staff during her tenure.