

BROMMEL-FEIGENHOLTZ SCHOLARSHIP IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sarah Feigenholtz double majored in Speech and Performing Arts and Political Science at Northeastern. She also participated in speech activities. In the late 70's she took classes from Dr. Brommel, and he along with her political science advisors, Dr. Edris Fredericks and Dr. John Murphy, promoted her application for an internship in Washington, D.C.

That experience changed Feigenholtz and created in her a passion to be a political activist and seek public office. After Northeastern, she received another degree from the University of Illinois School Of Public Health. She ran for Illinois State Representative for the 12th District, and now for more than 20 years has represented that Lakefront district. As a Democrat, she represents her party well in a variety of leadership roles. Not only is she a force in Springfield but a valued community supporter of all sorts of activities in her district.

Feigenholtz is a leading advocate and sponsor of bills that support women's health and rights, LGBT communities, healthcare, aged citizens, human services and adoption reform. Adoption rights have a real champion in Feigenholtz, for she was adopted. In more recent sessions of the legislature she has played a key role in budget bills, especially efforts to balance the state budget.

In an interview, Feigenholtz said, "NEIU still holds a place in my heart for allowing me to discover my love for politics and government. I am grateful to NEIU and to Dr. Brommel for giving students like me the opportunity to explore their passion for politics. Dr. Brommel commented, "Over the years I have had the joy of showing up whenever Sarah gave a talk or gathered groups for political discussions in her district. What a joy it has been to see a former speech student time after time carefully explain complicated legislative matters in a clear and articulate way! This is what you hope your students of communication will do - use speech to make a difference in the lives of people. Since I lived in her district, it was easy for me to follow Sarah's career. I just liked to slip in the back row and listen. Invariably she would see me and point out our connection and say, 'My speech teacher is here and he is watching me.'"

When she learned about this scholarship in her name, Feigenholtz wrote, "This is a wonderful way to remain connected to the university and impact the next generation of leaders." Most importantly Feigenholtz has consistently supported legislative measures to help Northeastern thrive.