



Making All the Difference

Larry L. Lorton

As the only child of pre-World War II, grade-school-dropout parents, going to college was almost fantasy. I was accepted at Miami in 1956 under Ohio's at the time required "Promising but Underachieving" legislative mandate. It took over five years for my bachelor's, working nearly full time. My overall grade point average was not good except for my major in math. The then UA College of Education dean, Dean Barker, accepted me into the master's program on probation, a decision that changed everything. One PhD later including part-time statistics and research teaching at UA, I spent nearly twenty-fix of my thirty-five years in public schools as a superintendent in four school

systems in two states, a rewarding career made possible by a fateful, compassionate gamble on the part of the UA College of Education leadership who concluded that, given a chance, I was worth the gamble.