Alumna Dr. Joan Ortmeir Lappe is many things to many people. She is a nationally recognized pre-eminent researcher and a long parade of letters after her name, tell a tale of professional achievement.

Dr. Lappe joined Creighton in 1984 as assistant instructor in the School of Nursing and currently Dr. Lappe is a professor, the associate dean for research, and the holder of the Beirne Endowed Chair in Nursing. She has a genuine love for everything she does and in addition to her professional accomplishments, has always maintained a commitment to nursing.

Dr. Lappe is passionate about nursing and with her experience as a working nurse and as a professor, Dr. Lappe is practiced in laying before her students the full worth of their chosen profession.

Dr. Lappe is a strong collaborator who is supportive of all of her colleagues and students, and who has the ability to ignite an enthusiasm for education and research in everyone around her.

She has been a professional mentor to numbers of faculty and staff and has been an excellent role model for women making marked achievements in the scientific field for nursing.

She leads with patience and grace and has encouraged women faculty, students, and staff in the development of their academic talents. Dr. Lappe has a genuine love for all that she does and has the ability to make very human connections with individuals.

Dr. Lappe serves the entire University in many ways and promotes autonomy and accountability in the work place. She has made a significant impact on the Creighton campus with her many University service and community service activities and has created an environment supportive of achievement for women that Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily would be proud of. For this, the Committee on the Status of Women is proud to award Dr. Joan Lappe with the 2016 Award.