Jay M. Robinson Bust
Jay M. Robinson was a tireless advocate for education in North Carolina and served the state in a number of significant positions, including state superintendent of education.

He was one of the driving forces behind the development of Legacy Hall. The bust, created by local artist Fran Sherman, honors Robinson’s contributions to the quality of education in North Carolina.

Battleship North Carolina Model
Bequeathed to the university in 2003 by Samuel Norman “Pete” MacKenzie, a museum quality scale model of the battleship has been given a place of honor in Legacy Hall.

The USS North Carolina has strong ties to the state’s public schools. In the early 1960s, school children across the state collected nickels and dimes to raise funds as part of the Save Our Ship (SOS) campaign, which was successful in bringing the retired battleship to Wilmington for permanent display.

A Timeless Memorial
Housed in the three-story, sky-lit atrium of the Education Building, the North Carolina Teachers Legacy Hall is a timeless memorial honoring P-12 education and highlighting landmarks of teaching excellence throughout North Carolina.

Through a series of interactive displays featuring various aspects of educational history—from desks to teaching tools to a one-room schoolhouse—Legacy Hall offers young visitors the opportunity to learn about how schools and teaching have changed over the years, while prompting adults to reminisce about their own school days and the teachers who influenced their lives. It also provides a comfortable, inviting environment where visitors can sit to contemplate and discuss what they’ve seen and learned.

We hope you enjoy this unique experience.
Honoring the Education Profession in North Carolina

The future of North Carolina depends on our commitment to provide our children with the best possible education. In light of this belief, the Watson School, with the help of generous friends of education, has created the North Carolina Teachers Legacy Hall.

Legacy Hall honors extraordinary teachers and administrators, showcases historic milestones in education, and pays tribute to the education profession for its contributions to the growth and success of our state. We continue to build on this foundation of excellence as we prepare the educators of today and tomorrow.

The North Carolina Teachers Legacy Hall includes nine niches depicting multiple facets of education in North Carolina: teaching tools, one-room schoolhouse, school bus, awards, teachers and principals of the year, historical timeline/current events, school desks and films that teach. The ninth niche is reserved to honor donors to Legacy Hall. In addition, Legacy Hall features a bust of North Carolina educator Jay Robinson and a scale model of the USS North Carolina.

Bookshelf of Donors
All gifts to Legacy Hall of $10,000 or more are acknowledged on the Bookshelf of Donors. Donor support is helping the Watson School of Education recognize and honor the truly heroic efforts being made by teachers and school administrators every day in North Carolina.

Films That Teach
The cinema niche showcases films, documentaries and events with educational themes. Sit and enjoy the portrayal of the teaching profession from movie classics and history.

Honorees
Teachers of the Year and Principals of the Year are recognized in Legacy Hall on an annual basis. These educators are the “best of the best,” giving their all each day to further the education of North Carolina students.

School Desks
Desks from schools across time are displayed with the opportunity for visitors to sit, learn and remember.

Teaching Awards
Every teacher has received an award, and every student has given one. Whether the award is a certificate, a flower, a bracelet or a plaque, all are priceless.

Teaching News
Follow the historical timeline laid out in the brick flooring to the current events niche, where you will read and learn about issues and challenges facing the education profession today.

Teaching Tools
See how tools of the teaching profession have progressed through the years, from chalk to overhead projectors to computers. While the tools have become more sophisticated, it is still the knowledge and creativity of the teacher that makes them effective.

One-Room Schoolhouse
Not so long ago, one-room schoolhouses dotted the landscape of North Carolina, with children of various ages learning together with one teacher. This partial replica will give you a glimpse into what public education was like in that not-so-distant past.

School Bus
Most children, young and old, have ridden a school bus... a time for young minds to learn and shape memories.