

SILENT REFLECTION AND CENTERING MOMENTS

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for

Celebrating the life of Dr. Colleen Aalsburg Wiessner

NCSU, the Friday Institute, Wachovia Innovation Hall, Thursday, August 20, 2009

We have come to the place in our program set aside to center ourselves and silently reflect upon what we have seen, heard, felt and experienced tonight. After our silent reflection, we as a community will take a few moments to share our memories, thoughts, prayers, blessings and gratitude with each other in the spirit which binds us together in this place. We will use as our model for this reflection the Christian tradition of a “popcorn prayer”. After a few moments of silence, I will start the reflection and invite all of the community to add your voices to the reflection. As we remain seated with our heads bowed, all who feel lead may lift their voices and share a word or two with the community. Like popcorn, our voices may overlap one another, and the rhythm of our voices will ebb and flow. When it appears that the voices are settling to a close, I will end the reflection with words of gratitude and hope. Please join me in a few moments of centering silence. *(Pause)*.

Creator, Councilor and, Advocate we have come together in this place as a community in mourning. We seek to find some meaning in the sudden loss of our friend, teacher, colleague, and loved one. We have seen in her life and her work a vision of one called to creativity, knowledge, service and advocacy. We now give voice to our feelings, reflections, love and gratitude...

Creator, hear our cries! Take our tears and turn them into joy. Councilor, lead us through these dark shadows and into the light of understanding. Show us the path to knowledge and grace. Advocate, compel us to seek justice for others as we lay claim to the truth, that as long as any one suffers, we all suffer. Help us to humbly love our neighbors and our enemies, offering kindness to all. Thank you for the example of your grace, love and mercy found in the life of Colleen Aalsburg Wiessner. May we become the blessing to others that she has been to us.

Amen.