Dr. Bernice Folz has dedicated more than 40 years of her professional life to the computer and technology industry and more than 25 years to the University of St. Thomas. In 1984 she developed what was one of the first, and largest world wide, graduate programs in software engineering. This graduate program in software was one of the first to take an applied rather than a research approach and is oriented toward practicing software specialists. The program's curriculum emphasized applying theory to workplace software development and was developed through partnerships with industry advisory members from Control Data, Honeywell, IBM, NCR/Comten, Sperry, and 3M. By partnering with Minnesota's business and industry community in developing courses, the program remained responsive to the region's technological needs. Alumni of the program have worked with an impressive array of Minnesota and national companies such as West Publishing, Cargill, Norwest, Northwest Airlines, Medtronic, Lockheed Martin, IBM, Microsoft, Silicon Graphics, Sun Microsystems and hundreds of other successful companies. Folz also fostered a global perspective to this graduate program by leading tours of students and business persons to meet software engineers in India, China, Japan, former Soviet Union, Israel, South Africa, Egypt, Thailand, Uruguay and Cuba. Thanks in part to contacts Folz had made during her travels, about 43% of the graduate students were from a foreign country—a true opportunity for everyone to become more globally focused. Dr. Folz is a University of Minnesota alumnus, earning her M.S. in Mathematics and Education, and a Ph.D. in Biology. She has worked with IBM and UNISYS and taught at the University of Minnesota, University of St. Thomas, Inver Hills Community College, College of Visual Arts as well as in high schools and vocational schools in Wisconsin and Minnesota.