Dr. Ella Brooks graduated from the College of Nursing in 1981 and has dedicated her life to serving others through the nursing profession.

Brooks is the associate chair of academics, BSN/RN-BSN director, Watertown Site director, and associate professor at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. She has more than 30 years of combined experience in cardiopulmonary adult health nursing, education and administration.

Prior to assuming her role at USD Vermillion she was the USD Rapid City nursing campus director. Brooks is a dedicated teacher and researcher whose interests include evidence-based research to improve nursing education, collaborative practice and professional and role development.

She has significantly impacted the field of nursing and has worked tirelessly to help young generations of nurses. Brooks has a passion for ethics, for public service and for scholarship. She recently created the College of Nursing Faculty/Staff development fund that supports research and academic development.

Brooks has also taken up a leadership role on the Alumni Advisory Council for the College of Nursing where she has stepped up as a leader in philanthropy and is providing advice on how the college can elevate nationally and locally. Her support has furthered Creighton by offering the necessary resources to train, mentor and develop current faculty.

For her service to others, for her pursuit for mutual respect and for human dignity, Dr. Ella Stradinger Brooks is a most deserving recipient of the 2016 College of Nursing Alumni Merit Award.