Karen Soulliere Van Dyke graduated from the Heider College of Business in 1988 and is a leader, a mother, wife and a volunteer who is known for compassion and care.

In 2006, the Columbus, Neb., native and her husband founded Educate Uganda. Van Dyke believes God called her to serve the people of Nkokonjeru, Uganda, and she has devoted countless hours, effort and energy to the mission of her foundation.

Educate Uganda pays the school fees each year for nearly 1,500 children who have lost one or both of their parents. The school improvement program identifies and implements much-needed changes, such as financial support for underpaid teachers and basic learning requirements, such as school supplies for the children and classroom aids for the teachers.

As the president and treasurer of Educate Uganda, Van Dyke’s leadership and support has been instrumental in providing for the construction of classrooms, teachers quarters, latrines and water tanks.

Driven by a constant desire to do more, Van Dyke has also been involved with St. Wenceslaus Parish and school, Creighton Prep and Marian, where her children attended school. She also volunteers for Essential Pregnancy Services and various other organizations in Omaha. Van Dyke says that the people she has met while pursuing her dreams have changed her life for the better.

Prior to founding Educate Uganda, Van Dyke had a successful career at Union Pacific Railroad as a financial analyst and ran a home-based consulting business.

For her passion for serving the underserved and for educating youth, Creighton University is proud to confer upon Karen Soulliere Van Dyke the 2016 Heider College of Business Alumni Merit Award.