

2013 Civic Engagement Professional of the Year

Elaine Madison – Duke University



ELAINE MADISON has served at Duke University for almost 30 years. Provost Peter Lange stated that “more than any other person at Duke, Elaine is responsible for the growth and institutionalization of civic engagement.” His comment was echoed by the Faculty Director of the Service-Learning Program: “For two decades, Elaine has been Duke’s strongest advocate for creating and sustaining a deeper relationship between Duke and the community.”

Elaine received her J.D. from UNC Chapel Hill, where she was a Chancellor’s Scholar. She earned her B.A. from Colorado Women’s College and completed graduate work at Brandeis University and the University of California, Santa Cruz. When she came to Duke in 1984 she started as the Associate Director for the Office of Continuing Education

moving to Duke’s Community Service Center in 1993. She convened brown bag lunches to discuss the University’s moral responsibility to help students learn to be engaged citizens, and served on the Dean’s Advisory Committee on Service-Learning. From 1994 to 2009 she served as director of the Community Service Center where she created and sustained programs such as Break for Change, America Reads, Habitat for Humanity and the Partnership for Literacy.

When President Nan Koehane wanted to establish the Duke-Durham Neighborhood Partnership (DDNP), it was Elaine who guided the way in identifying the partnerships. Since 1996 DDNP has improved the quality of life in 12 neighborhoods and supported 8 public schools near campus. Duke has worked with community members, advocated for housing, neighborhood and school initiatives, and helped raise more than \$12 million to invest in community partners.

Elaine served on a task force to envision what would become DukeEngage and the Duke Center for Civic Engagement. She currently serves as Associate Director for Programs and Director, Durham Programs for DukeEngage. DukeEngage provides full funding for students to pursue a summer of service in a U.S. or international community. As of 2012, more than 2,000 Duke students have volunteered in nearly 70 nations.

Elaine has guided a strategic planning process, written a comprehensive travel policy for students’ domestic and international service trips, developed an evaluation and assessment plan, and located gifts for community members who are part of Project Share, a joint philanthropic program with the Volunteer Center of Durham and the Durham Department of Social Services. Very recently she has

helped lead the creation of a new experiential learning certificate program providing a pathway for students to integrate service experiences with academic coursework.

Elaine coordinates Duke's application for the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll to which they have been named each year. In 2008 Duke received the Presidential Award, the highest honor given. Elaine coordinated Duke's 2008 Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching application through which they received the Community Engagement Classification.

A colleague shared that "while others will testify to Elaine's diligence, intelligence, commitment to service and incredible ability to analyze every situation, I want to lift up her equally valuable role as a mentor – to countless students...and to her many colleagues who share her passion for civic engagement."