

**2010 Robert L. Sigmon Service-Learning Award Recipient
Dr. Michele Gillespie**

Dr. Michele Gillespie, Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives and Kahle Family Professor of History, has served at Wake Forest University since 1999. Earning a B.A. from Rice University and a Ph.D. at Princeton University, Dr. Gillespie started her professional academic career as Assistant Professor of History at Agnes Scott College.



Dr. Gillespie has a reputation as an excellent historian, described by noted historian, John Boles, as proving “to be one of the most influential Southern historians of her generation.” She is a hardworking, published professor, recognized by leaders in her field. Dr. Gillespie has not rested on these accomplishments. She has found the way to balance academic rigor with integrating community engagement into her work and her classes. A student summed it up by saying Dr. Gillespie “is an example and a mentor in teaching the lesson that service isn’t a project, it’s something to weave into the very fabric of your life.”

Dr. Gillespie was selected to participate in Wake Forest’s Academic and Community Engagement (ACE) Fellowship program during the 2000 academic year, receiving campus-wide support for incorporating service-learning into her courses and integrating community-based research. In both 2002 and 2004, she received a Pro Humanitate Service-Learning grant for her *History in the New South Service-Learning* course.

In 2001, Wake Forest received a Lilly Endowment grant to establish the Pro Humanitate Center. As the Director of the Center, Dr. Gillespie coordinated service learning initiatives for students, including a nonprofit summer internship program, a service learning program at the San Carlos Apache Reservation, and an academic service learning program in Managua, Nicaragua.

As Associate Provost for Academic Initiatives, Dr. Gillespie oversees the Teaching and Learning Center, and administers five competitive university-wide funds that support publically engaged programs and opportunities. Under Dr. Gillespie’s leadership as Chair, a Public Engagement Advisory Board did extensive research and interviews that resulted in a proposal to create an Institute for Public Engagement. Launched in 2010, the Institute will build strong reciprocally beneficial relationships with partners, support publicly engaged teaching and service learning courses, support volunteer opportunities, facilitate community-led research, and support student clinic services to the community.

2010 Selection Committee

Dr. Julie Elkins, Director of Academic Initiatives
National Campus Compact (Boston)

Kathy Engelken, Executive Director
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