

2009 Robert L. Sigmon Service-Learning Award Recipient
Pamela Kiser, Elon University

Ms. Pamela Kiser, a faculty member in the Human Services Department at Elon University since 1981, earned a B.A. from Wake Forest University, a Master of Social work at UNC - Chapel Hill and pursued graduate work at UNC – Greensboro. In 2007 Elon University awarded Professor Kiser the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching, Elon’s premier accolade for outstanding undergraduate instruction. She has been named the University’s Watts-Thompson Professor, an honor that recognizes excellence in campus leadership. She also received the College of Arts and Sciences award for Excellence in Service-Leadership in 2005. Her expertise in service-learning was recognized with a Project Interweave grant for 2004-2006. In 2004 she was appointed the Faculty Development Fellow for Service-Learning.



During her tenure at Elon, Ms. Kiser has created and chaired a Service-Learning Faculty Advisory Committee; created a standard definition for service-learning and a handbook for faculty; developed a service-learning course designation that has been included in the catalog, as well as a process for course selection; raised funds to support collaborations, faculty scholars, and course development; created and led faculty scholars training programs; and established an award for the Service-Learning Outstanding paper and the Celebration of Service Presentations.

Working with the director of the campus’ service-learning center and community partners, she created and continues to conduct a semester-long seminar for faculty who are developing new service-learning courses. The 28 faculty who have completed this program to date, offer 37 academic service-learning courses. Additionally, over the past 18 months Ms. Kiser has guided the creation of the Social Entrepreneurship Scholars program in which a cohort of 20 sophomores experience a three year program that integrates academic student, service-learning, social entrepreneurship and related co-curricular activities. In her Sigmon nomination letter, the Associate Provost identified Kiser as the “the single most important influence at our campus in turning well-meaning community service into deep academic service-learning.”

2009 Selection Committee

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