

2007 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community

Elizabeth Tomaszewski

The Trustees' Award for Service to Community is presented in memory of Denise Nicoletti, a professor in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department from 1991-2002, whose passion for life and outreach to under-represented groups touched many lives. Among her activities, Denise co-founded Camp Reach, a widely-acclaimed summer program which introduces seventh grade girls to the excitement of engineering and science. The recipient of the 2007 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community is Elizabeth Tomaszewski.



At the 2007 Faculty Convocation are, from right, Elizabeth Tomaszewski, Professor Allen Hoffman, winner of the 2006 Nicoletti Award, and Provost John Orr

Liz has been an outstanding volunteer within the City of Worcester and its school system. Her leadership and organizational skills have had a positive impact on numerous organizations. In addition, she has been instrumental in linking WPI students with the organizations that she has served.

As a member of the Worcester City Manager's Advisory Committee on the Status of Women, Liz has tirelessly promoted the Committee's various projects including addressing wage equity, advocating for women's health issues and involvement in the Worcester Women's Safety Network. Liz is always willing to volunteer her time to help move the Committee's projects forward.

Liz teamed up with Professor John Wilkes to offer a series of IQP projects to study the aspirations of high school students in Worcester. She overcame obstacles and was instrumental in obtaining approval to conduct these studies within the school system. She has served as an excellent role model for the WPI students who have participated in these projects. She is truly an ambassador for WPI into the community at large.

She is equally active in the civic side of the public schools. She is on the Doherty High School site council and booster club, as well as the Committee for Safe Schools Healthy Kids. She was instrumental in setting up female friendly "Future Scientist and Engineer Clubs" at the major public high schools. Some say that "she seems to know everyone in the school system" and that she uses her excellent negotiation skills, coupled with just enough patience, to change minds and further the causes of the organizations that she represents.

Always an advocate for women, it is fitting to note that she advocated for a rules change so that the Worcester Women of Consequence Award could be made posthumously; this rule change enabled Denise Nicoletti to be one of the recipients in 2005.

For her boundless energy and passionate belief in advocating and serving causes for improving the status of women and students, we honor Elizabeth Tomazewski with the 2007 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Community Service.