

2011 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community

Robert Krueger

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 2011 Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community is Robert Krueger.

While many faculty and staff provide significant service to WPI, since his arrival in 2002, Rob's contributions have been especially noteworthy for their breadth of impact. His passion for sustainability and environmental responsibility have involved him in several key activities, including membership on the President's Task Force on Sustainability, annual participation in the Sustainability Poster Competition, and, of course, the grassroots work that led to creation of WPI's own Environmental Studies major. Rob has also served a full term on the Committee for Advising and Student Life and sat on the University Council. Furthermore, he has been a volunteer Insight Advisor since 2004, providing vital mentorship and guidance for hundreds of first-year students. His approach to advising is quite personal; he engages frequently with the students, and often invites them to his home for meals with his family.

His passion for helping individuals, however, takes him far beyond the services associated with his formal roles and organizations. Rob has served as a mentor to over a dozen new colleagues who have wanted to learn about IQP advising, by involving them in the Worcester Community Project Center and by working with them in on-campus projects. Each year, new colleagues are sent his way, and Rob generously works with them to share his experience and enthusiasm for directing community-based student work.

Outside the WPI community, Rob's commitment to serving others is even more apparent. A sampling of his service appointments include: the Board of Directors of the Worcester Land Trust, the Mayor's Council on Brownfield Redevelopment, the Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Audubon Society's Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, the Environmental Justice Roundtable for Central Massachusetts, the Steering Committee for the state's Green Production and Environmental Justice Conference, the Steering Committee for the Elm Park Community School, the United Way's Worcester Community Indicators Project, and the City Manager's Energy Task Force. Since 2006 he has also been a driving force in the Regional Environmental

Council, where he currently serves as President of the Board of Directors. Within these organizations that service his community, city, region, and state, he is known as the “vision” person; he listens to the needs of the community first then contributes his expertise in urban and environmental studies while providing leadership to see these needs met.

Whether from students he has touched, colleagues he has mentored, or community members and leaders he has enabled, the resounding sentiment is that Rob has the passion, vision, and commitment to improve the health, sustainability, and equity of every community he encounters.

For his years of dedication to WPI and the surrounding communities, we are proud to honor Robert Krueger for the 2011 Denise Nicoletti Trustees’ Award for Service to the Community.