

2014 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community

Chrysanthe Demetry

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 to 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 2014 Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to Community is Chrys Demetry for her service to the community during the past 21 years.

Her genuine loyalty and love of WPI goes well beyond her "job responsibilities," and we are fortunate to have her as a member of our faculty. Chrys has shared her talents as a leader by serving as an advocate and friend to all students, especially young women. The committee agrees that Chrys Demetry embodies what the Nicoletti Award recognizes as a *"passion and action in serving the needs of a community and genuine care for the enrichment of life for others."*

Chrys Demetry was in fact Denise Nicoletti's partner in founding Camp Reach, a two-week residential summer program that inspires middle school girls to pursue science and engineering. Since its inception 18 years ago, Camp Reach has left a lasting legacy in the lives of more than 500 young women. This one of a kind, inspired model has received national recognition for the influential work to develop a diverse population of scientists and engineers. Most notably in 2011 Chrys accepted the prestigious "Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring" from President Obama in the White House.

Chrys, however, was not satisfied with *just* an award-winning program. Therefore, she spearheaded an additional service-learning component to Camp Reach as an informal education program. This less advertised facet of Camp Reach is equally powerful in its impact on the Worcester community through various nonprofit organizations that benefit from the service-learning projects done by Camp Reach students. Chrys's empathy and long hours of hard work brought to fruition several projects including "green" renovations for Broad Meadow Brook Sanctuary, a new play space at the Jewish Community Center, a sound booth for the Worcester Boys and Girls Club, a wheelchair ramp at Friendly House, and a computer lab renovation at Girls Inc. Many of these organizations serve Worcester's most · vulnerable populations.

Chrys's commitment to improving student learning is remarkable. In her various roles at WPI, most recently through her leadership of the Morgan Teaching and Learning Center, the "*Food for Thought*" seminar series, and her guidance of the faculty mentorship program, Chrys facilitates meaningful and productive dialog among people from diverse disciplines about what teaching and learning means. Her approachable attitude, friendly support, and creative ideas foster passion for teaching and learning rather than a prescriptive set of tasks.

Chrys's careful, deliberate and thoughtful disposition has earned her positions on numerous university-wide committees. Sometimes she has voluntarily stood for election, and other times at the urging of colleagues who have witnessed her selfless work ethic, she has agreed to serve. Chrys's work is so highly valued not only because she's a clear thinker and writer, but also because she goes well beyond her responsibilities in trying to be helpful, doing so quietly and without complaint or fanfare.

Chrys's passion for learning permeates the WPI community. Her ability to engage and excite young women about their potential futures in engineering continues to make a notable impact in the community beyond WPI. For her years of dedication to WPI and the surrounding communities, we are proud to honor Chrys Demetry for the 2014 Denise Nicoletti Trustees' Award for Service to the Community.