



Commission for **Adult Learners**

Previous Award Recipients: Superior Service to Adult Learners Award

2012 Amy Dietz, lecturer in the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations, was recognized for touching the lives of many adult students enrolled both on and off campus. These alumni regularly remain engaged with the department and give back to the program by speaking on campus, serving as mentors for Penn State students and sponsoring internships. Her own experiences make her especially attuned to the challenges adult learners face: Dietz earned her bachelor of science in labor studies and employment relations through the Schreyer Honors College and her masters of science in industrial relations and human resources while working full time in the Department of Labor Studies and Employment Relations and raising a family.

2011 Betty McKinley, Admissions Counselor, University Park, was recognized for her commitment to helping adult learner applicants through the initial stages of their Penn State experience, using her firsthand experience of earning her degree as an adult learner. Numerous colleagues University-wide provided examples of her devotion to help motivate adult learners join her as Penn State alumni.

2010: Apryl Kadish, admission counselor at Penn State Fayette, The Eberly Campus, was recognized for her accomplishments during the past year are the creation of a CLEP testing site that enables students to earn credits through College Board exams, playing a key role in bringing the Intermediate Unit 1's offices on campus to make it easier for adult learners to participate in remedial courses, serving as the campus' liaison with Pennsylvania Career Link, being the TAA/TRA (federal programs) adviser, assisting with the transition of policies related to provisional admission and helping to restart the campus' Bachelor of Organizational Leadership program.

2009: Dr. Jennifer Talwar, associate professor of sociology and faculty coordinator of the Organizational Leadership (OLEAD) program at Penn State Lehigh Valley, was recognized as adviser and program coordinator for the OLEAD program, hosting receptions and social events to ensure a support system among the adult learners. At the 2009 Hendrick Best Practices for Adult Learners Conference, Dr. Talwar presented a session along with five members of the OLEAD program, who attested to her role in guiding and motivating them to achieve success.

2008: Dr. Jack Spillan, associate professor of business at Penn State DuBois, was recognized for his mentorship of both adult learners and adjunct business faculty who teach at the St. Marys and Clearfield centers. His students appreciate Dr. Spillan's recognition of the expertise they bring to the classroom, his approachability, and his recognition of adults' multiple responsibilities in scheduling and staffing their labs.

2007: Kaye Keith, administrative assistant in the Office of the University Registrar at University Park, was recognized for providing exemplary service to students who are called to active military duty while enrolled at Penn State and must withdraw. When a Bellefonte reserve unit was activated, Kaye—with help from the company officer—picked up the students' orders directly from the base.

2006: Cathy Watson, staff assistant in the Adult Education Program at University Park, was recognized for providing both resident and distance education students with guidance navigating University, college, and

program policy requirements. She was acknowledged for respecting the capacities and capabilities of each student, while encouraging them to meet challenges.

2005: Dr. Jane Trainor, campus coordinator and instructor for the RN to BS program at Capital College, was recognized for developing programs, creating a new scheduling format, and conducting information sessions to better serve RN to BS students. Her enthusiasm and advocacy helped adult learners to thrive in the program.

2004: Janet Yates, assistant director of Student Affairs at Penn State DuBois, was recognized for developing programs, services, and communication tools to better serve adult learners. Her diligence and advocacy helped make their educational endeavors a more seamless and rewarding experience.

2003: Alice Royer, faculty member and coordinator of the Adult Enrichment Center at Penn State Mont Alto, was recognized for her tireless advocacy on behalf of adult learners. She worked to establish an adult student/commuter lounge, and serves as the campus conscience in both formal and informal conversations about how to better meet the needs of adult learners.

2002: Betsy Esposito, assistant director in the Center for Adult Learner Services at University Park, received the inaugural Superior Service to Adult Learners Award. Betsy advocates and provides innovative programs for adult learners to help them become successful students. Her personal touch and many mentoring attributes keep adult learners on track throughout their educational process.