



Barbara A. Mieras
Executive Vice President for Advancement – President of the Foundation
Davenport University
[4th Annual Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award \(2004\)](#)

Dr. Barbara A. Mieras began her career in education in 1972 as a business education teacher and instructional manager in Van Buren County. In 1984 she joined the staff at Davenport's Kalamazoo campus, managing campus programs, students, faculty and facilitating the work of curriculum development, marketing and admissions. A true "Jill of all trades"! She became Senior Vice President of Davenport University in 1996 and in 1998 was appointed President of Davenport College in 1998.

Following the merger of Davenport College, Detroit College of Business and Great Lakes College into Davenport University in July of 2001, Dr. Mieras was named Executive Vice President for Advancement and President of the Foundation. She is responsible for the advancement initiatives throughout Michigan and northern Indiana, expanding fundraising, broadening alumni relationships and increasing the involvement of the University in public and community affairs.

She received a B.S. in Business Education (1972), an M.A. in Teaching of Business Education (1974), an M.A. in Communications (1984) from Western Michigan University and her Ph.D. in College and University Administration from Michigan State University (1990).

Dr. Mieras has always made students a top priority and is committed to expanding the university's advancement efforts on their behalf. Her extensive community and personal involvements complement this mission and include service as Chairman of Founders Trust Personal Bank, a former board member of Connect Michigan Alliance, a board member of Michigan Campus Compact, a member of the MSU College of Education Advisory Board and of Western Michigan's Department of Communications Advisory Board.

Among her many honors, Barbara Mieras has been recognized in the *1999 Business Direct Weekly* as one of the most Influential Women of West Michigan and as an Athena Award and Woman of Achievement Tribute nominee (1999). She received the Michigan State University Crystal Apple Award and was named Western Michigan University's 1999 Distinguished Alumnus. In 2001 she was named President of the Year by Alpha Beta Gamma, a national college student organization, for her extended support of their mission of community service and volunteerism. And in 2005 Dr. Mieras received the Michigan Women's Foundation "Women of Achievement of Courage Award."

Her colleague, Davenport Vice President for Diversity and Cultural Affairs Jacqueline Taylor, has said, "Barbara Mieras is just terrific! She has contributed so much to Davenport University, to our community and to women everywhere in our state. She perfectly exemplifies the person who goes above and beyond in all that she does, setting a wonderful example to women at all levels."