

# 2008 Honoree - Mary Jane Thomson



**Mary Jane Thomson**

**Professional Occupations Department Chairperson  
Instructor, Business and Computer Information Systems  
Alpena Community College**

## **Two Year Institution Category**

Mary Jane Thomson is a first-generation college graduate, having earned an AAS Degree in Data Processing from Ferris State College. While working in the private sector she was chosen from 13,000 employees as the recipient of the James Duncan Award for Performance Excellence by First of America Bank Corporation. As a non-traditional student with three young children, Thomson attended Lake Superior State University and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration. She completed post-MBA coursework at Michigan State, Ferris State, Purdue, Boise State, St. Cloud State, and UCLA.

Thomson joined the ACC faculty in 1997 as Instructor of Business and Computer Information Systems, and currently serves as Professional Occupations Department Chairperson. Some of her achievements include spearheading the use of distance education in northeastern rural Michigan; implementing ACC's Certification Testing Center; founding and leading ACC's chapter of Kappa Beta Delta business honor society; receiving the 2006 Russell and Fromilda Wilson Endowed Teaching Chair Award; and serving on the Ferris Honors Program Advisory Board.

Thomson has enthusiastically distinguished herself as a mentor and advocate for women of all ages by leading church and Girl Scout activities, serving as an academic judge for Junior Miss programs, and presenting at Career Pathways, College Day for Women, and Lifelong Learner events. In his letter of nomination, ACC President Olin Joynton remarked that "Mary Jane demonstrates excellence in every criterion for the award. These distinctions comprise just a fraction of the many reasons why there could not be a more worthy recipient than Mary Jane Thomson. "