

2010 Honoree - Kathleen Wilbur



2010 Distinguished Women Leader Awardee

Kathleen M. Wilbur
Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs
Immediate Past Interim President
Central Michigan University

As Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs at Central Michigan University, Kathleen (Kathy) Wilbur has been a leader within government and education for many years. Kathy earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1975 from MSU with a major in journalism, and her first position was with the Michigan Republican State Senate Press Office. She went on to serve as Chief of Staff to Senator William Sederburg who chaired the Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee on Higher Education, as a Trustee on the Michigan State University Board of Trustees, as the first and only female ever to serve as Director of three different state departments, and during 2009 and early 2010, Kathy served as Interim President of CMU, the first female to ever serve in that position in the University's 118 year history.

Kathy's "reach" is expansive – as CMU's advocate in Washington, D.C. and Michigan's capitol city of Lansing, and she is also responsible for all of CMU's television and radio public broadcasting. Kathy has been appointed by two governors to serve on the Michigan Higher Education Student Loan Authority and the Michigan Higher Education Assistance Authority.

For 18 years, Kathy has served as the Vice President and Director of Corporate Contributions for the Women's Caring Program, a Michigan non-profit foundation that she helped found. She also served for many years on the Board and Executive Committee of ArtServe Michigan.

Kathleen has received numerous awards, including being inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 2007 and the 2010 Distinguished Service Award from the Michigan Business & Professional Association. Other awards include: the YWCA Diana Award, the Michigan Women's Commission Leadership Award, the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants Partner in Government Award, and the MSU College of Communication Arts & Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award in 2001.

Kathy and her husband, Tom, have four children, Thomas, William, Samuel and Raymond.