



Jacqueline L. Zeff
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[2nd Annual Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award \(2002\)](#)

In presenting the 2002 award, Michigan Network State Coordinator Martha Tack said, "You certainly deserve this signal honor, given your continuing efforts to improve the status of women in society as well as in higher education. Clearly, your research, writing, and advocacy have allowed your influence to be felt far beyond the University of Michigan-Flint campus into state and national arenas. We are, indeed, delighted that you will be receiving this Award and applaud all of your efforts to promote women and feminist perspectives throughout your 30-year career in postsecondary education."

In making Dr. Zeff's nomination, Juan Mestas, Chancellor of the University of Michigan-Flint, wrote: "From the very beginning of her academic career, long before she came to the University of Michigan, Dr. Zeff provided distinguished leadership as the faculty advisor to Wayne State University's feminist literary journal *Moving Out* and making conference presentations such as "Shakespeare's Women Versus the Critics". Throughout her twenty-five year career her record is consistent in supporting women's intellectual and administrative leadership. At Mercy College (where Dr. Zeff became Director of Graduate Studies and then Dean of the Division of Arts and Sciences) she was the principal planner of several women-oriented national conferences.

At U of MFlint she: served in the Mentorship Program on the Women's Center Advisory Council, on the Women and Gender Studies Program and as president of the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors. She also has served on the Faculty Council and the Chancellor's Council, an important advisory group on policy matters. "She has intervened and taken leadership in difficult circumstances, and delicately maneuvered for the best possible outcomes on a whole range of issues affecting women," notes Mestas. And, she has taken genuine risks at the intellectual, political and personal level to promote women and feminists perspectives. She helped design the present model for the Women's Educational Center and move it through the levels of approval.

Dr. Zeff is noted for her integration of feminism, literary discourse and institutional advocacy. "Her sense of fairness and equity is predicated on her own explicit consciousness of racism and anti-Semitism. Her scholarly work has included analysis of Jewish literature, Latina literature, and Asian-American and African-American literature.

Dr. Zeff received her B.A. from the University of Michigan (with honors), her M.A. from Wayne State University and her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh. Her dissertation was "Narrative Technique in the Poetry of John Keats". She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and active in professional societies, community service and city and state-wide cultural affairs. Her scholarly and popular works have been published extensively and frequently. She also has appeared on a number of conference and symposia programs and is an in-demand community speaker for groups ranging from service organizations, to learned societies, to Elderhostel.