



Michigan ACE Network for Women Leaders in Higher Education

www.miacenetwork.org

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Dr. Elizabeth H. Simmons, Director of the Lyman Briggs School of Science and Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Michigan State University (MSU) will receive the **Michigan American Council on Education (ACE) Network's Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award for 2005.**

The announcement is made by Dr. Martha W. Tack, State Coordinator for the Michigan Network, one of the first Networks founded in the United States by ACE's Office of Women in Higher Education. *Coincidentally, the Michigan Network itself recently received the sought-after 2005 National ACE Network and Program Award for outstanding, innovative and visionary programs benefiting women leaders.*

"Dr. Simmons is a remarkable scientist, academician and mentor," notes Tack. A particle theorist whose ongoing research focuses on the origins of the masses of the elementary subatomic particles, she enjoys teaching at all levels from elementary to graduate, even as she more than ably directs both the day-to-day business and the complex current expansion plans of the Lyman Briggs School, an innovative undergraduate residential science program at MSU."

Internationally renowned, Dr. Simmons' research is funded by the National Science Foundation. She has played a highly visible national leadership role in the particle theory community and was elected Corporate Secretary of the Aspen Center for Physics in 2004. Trained at Harvard and Cambridge Universities, Dr. Simmons spent a decade as a professor at Boston University before joining the MSU faculty in the summer of 2003.

"We applaud Dr. Simmons' considerable academic achievements in disciplines in which women have proven they can excel," notes Tack. "Most importantly, we applaud her commitment to the encouragement of young women to enter the sciences. She is the founder of a Pathways

Program that has introduced hundreds of high school girls each year to opportunities in science, engineering and mathematics. Her campus office is noted for its “Board of Directors” bulletin board which features postings of news on exciting research as well as pointed articles deflating the notion that girls are not good in math!”

The **2005 Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award** will be presented to Dr. Simmons on June 14th on the occasion of the Michigan Network’s annual conference, to be held at the James B. Henry Center for Executive Development in East Lansing. The conference, which will attract more than 200 women in higher education from across the state, will feature a panel of Michigan’s women college and university presidents, numerous sessions on the public policies which affect women in our state, and a series of workshops geared toward the professional and personal development issues which have an impact on highly committed women who balance serious careers with home, family and community responsibilities. Details of the conference, which welcomes interested parties, can be found on the Michigan Network’s website at www.miacenetwork.org.

Candidates for the annual award are nominated by the chief executive officers of their institutions. In her letter of nomination, Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon, President of Michigan State University said, “Dr. Simmons is approachable, reasonable and has a reputation for fairness and equity. She is an outstanding example of a faculty member who combines teaching, research, professional service and active engagement in advocacy for the advancement of women in higher education. It is a privilege to nominate such an exemplary woman.”

The 2005 award marks the fifth year of its presentation. Previous honorees include Nancy L. Barker, former Vice President and Founder of the Careers for Women Program and Director of the Distinguished Women’s program at Northwood University, 2001; Jacqueline L. Zeff, Director of the Master of Liberal Studies Program and women’s rights advocate at the University of Michigan-Flint, 2002; Barbara C. Steidle, Assistant Provost for Undergraduate Education and Assessment Services (now Emeritus) at Michigan State University, 2003; Barbara A. Mieras, Executive Vice President for Advancement and President of the Foundation at Davenport University, 2004. Past honorees have been invited to the 2005 conference to join in honoring Dr. Simmons as she receives this pivotal award. ###

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