



It's an honor to address you as this year's MWPHE president. When I was elected to the Executive Board three years ago I never dreamed that I would take over the presidency. Just being on the Executive Board of such an outstanding organization was intimidating enough.

As I met with all of the wonderful women on the board and attended the conferences and talked with so many of you, I realized that I was experiencing something very enriching and inspiring. Because of this, I was able to stretch the boundaries of my comfort zone, try something new and enjoy a great feeling of accomplishment. I hope that I will lead MWPHE as well as the exceptional presidents who have gone before me.

As I took over the presidency at the June retreat, there was a sense of excitement and anticipation for the new year. The Executive Board worked diligently at the retreat to plan a spectacular year. I am extremely excited about the conferences that we have arranged.

Chancellor Judith Gill from the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education will be the keynote speaker at our Fall Conference, which will be held Friday, Oct. 28, at Benjamin's Restaurant in Taunton. Chancellor Gill will give us an update on the status of public higher education in Massachusetts and share some of her career experiences.

We look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference. Let your involvement in MWPHE help to stretch the boundaries of your comfort zone. As women, we are extremely strong and dynamic individuals. Never let anyone or anything hold you back. Find a mentor, a role model or a friend who will encourage you to take the next step in becoming the person you've always wanted to be. You have the strength and knowledge to do great things and to inspire others!

Susan McCombe
President, MWPHE
Special Assistant to the President
Bridgewater State College

Women in Public Higher Education

mWphe

Massachusetts FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER

Fall Conference features state's higher education leader

Dr. Judith I. Gill, chancellor and chief executive officer of the state Board of Higher Education, will be the keynote speaker at the Fall Conference of the Massachusetts Women in Public Higher Education.

The conference will be held Friday, Oct. 28, at Benjamin's Restaurant in Taunton. Dr. Gill, in her presentation "Public Higher Education: Moving Ahead," will provide an update of the state of public higher education in the commonwealth as well as share her career path with the audience.

As chancellor, Dr. Gill is responsible for setting the state's public higher education agenda and coordinating the development and implementation of public policy for the system's 15 community colleges, nine state colleges and five university campuses.

Among many accomplishments since her appointment five years ago, Dr. Gill, working with the 11-member Board of Higher Education, has overseen the creation of a data warehouse to guide assessment and system improvement, shaped the first performance measurement system for state and community colleges, developed a higher education formula budget, adopted a strategic plan for capital improvements on public campuses and strengthened the ties between secondary and post-secondary institutions, especially in the area of teacher preparation.

Dr. Gill's professional career began in 1972 as staff associate and legislative liaison for the University of Massachusetts. A native of Brookline and a graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst, Dr. Gill holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Washington and a PhD from the University of Michigan.

The Fall Conference will feature the annual "Special Recognition Award," information about professional development and scholarship awards, and the organization's public relations efforts. ♦

Inside...

PAGE 2 Highlights of the Spring Conference

PAGE 4 Appointments and Promotions