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Governors State University president wins prestigious award from American Council on Education

University Park, Ill., March 13, 2014 – Governors State University announced this week that its president, Elaine P. Maimon, has won the 2014 Donna Shavlik Award for women’s leadership in higher education from the American Council on Education.

The award honors an individual whose leadership demonstrates a sustained commitment to advancing women in higher education through actions or initiatives enhancing women’s leadership and career development, campus climate, and mentoring of women at both the state and national levels.

“Elaine Maimon has worked tirelessly and effectively to expand access to higher education overall and advance the cause of women in higher education leadership in particular,” said ACE president Molly Corbett Broad. “She is an inspiring role model and frequent mentor both in how she has achieved success and in her sustained commitment to creating paths to success for so many others.”

The award was established in 1999 to honor the service of Donna Shavlik, past director ACE’s former Office of Women in Higher Education. The award is presented each year at ACE’s Women’s Leadership Dinner during its annual meeting.
Maimon was nominated for the award by Governors State University provost, Deborah Bordelon.

“Elaine has spent her entire career dedicated to advancing women in higher education and it shows in her work. She works tirelessly to ensure that women are given every opportunity to move in the direction their ambition takes them. She has shown leadership, worked individually and with colleagues for the betterment of women in higher education. And for those reasons, she is an example of the qualities the Donna Shavlik Award represents and honors,” Bordelon said.

Maimon has served as an ACE Women’s Leadership presidential sponsor in Arizona, Alaska and Illinois and worked as a state coordinator in Rhode Island and New York. She was a member of ACE’s Women’s Commission. When ACE first organized the National Identification Program for Women, Maimon—then an assistant professor at Beaver College (PA) (now Arcadia University)—assisted the college president in organizing the Pennsylvania chapter.

“Elaine is a believer that people from other disciplines and other cultures can make contributions to higher education in ways that might be different from the traditional,” said Dr. Barbara F. Nodine, professor of Psychology at Arcadia University. “Students graduate with writing and presentation skills they might not have experienced were it not for Elaine’s faculty development. The changes at Arcadia University are a microcosm of the changes in higher education that Elaine has precipitated at numerous universities.”

President Maimon received her award March 8 at ACE’s 96th Annual Meeting in San Diego, during the Women’s Leadership Dinner.