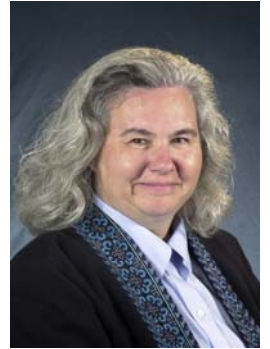


**2007 Robert L. Sigmon Service-Learning Award**  
**Dr. Rachel Willis, UNC – Chapel Hill - Winner**

Rachel Willis, an Associate Professor of American Studies at UNC, began integrating service-learning into her courses in the late 1980's. She served as the first faculty advisor to the APPLES Service-Learning Program, an innovative, national model for student-led service-learning initiatives started at UNC in 1991. That same year, she helped found the Carolina Center for Public Service whose mission is to engage and support faculty, staff and students at UNC in meeting the needs of North Carolina. Over the years, her research and service-learning efforts have contributed to the passage of Smart Start Legislation to improve child care and to improvements in the sock factory industry, transportation in the Triangle, and disability access on the 16 UNC campuses.



Rachel was honored as one of the nation's best practitioners of service-learning as a 1999 and 2007 finalist for the national Thomas Ehrlich award. The Ehrlich Award recognizes exemplary leadership in advancing the civic learning of students, including public scholarship, building campus commitment to service-learning and civic engagement, and fostering genuine, democratic community partnerships. Carolina honored Willis with the first Bryan Award for Public Service for her role in the creation of the Carolina Center for Public Service. At UNC, she helped to create new experiential education curriculum requirements, and the Public Service Scholar graduation distinction.

In 2006, Dr. Willis was appointed a Bowman and Gordon Gray Professor for her service-learning teaching linked to an active research agenda. Even more recently she has been awarded a competitive Kauffman Fellowship in Social Entrepreneurship at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities to document the 15-year development of UNC's service-learning program, APPLES. She will organize a working conference and then co-edit a volume of essays with the past and current service-learning directors, Mary Morrison and Jenny Huq. The volume produced has the potential to be a guide for other institutions as they navigate the responsibilities and challenges of students, faculty, and academic institutions in implementing effective service-learning programs.

2007 Selection Committee

John H. Barnhill, Assistant to the V.P. of Institutional Advancement  
*Salem State College, Salem, MA &*  
*Former Executive Director NC Campus Compact*

Dr. Dan W. Butin, Assistant Professor and Founding Faculty  
*Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership*  
*Cambridge College, School of Education, Beverly, MA*

Jen Gilbride-Brown, Service Learning Network Coordinator  
*Ohio Campus Compact, Granville, OH*

Annie O'Neill, Americorps\*VISTA Service Leader  
*Wilmington College, Wilmington, OH*

Carlynn Hartman-Kurtz, Community Liaison  
*UNO Service-Learning Academy*

*University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE*