

## **Karen Kashmanian Oates**

### **Provost**

### **Harrisburg University of Science and Technology**

Karen Kashmanian Oates has joined Harrisburg University of Science and Technology as its first Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs. Harrisburg University of Science and Technology is a new university developed in an urban city in response to economic and educational needs of the region. The University is one of just a few secular not-for-profit universities which has been developed in the 21st century. As Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Dr. Oates is responsible for academic curriculum including hiring of all faculty and student affairs professionals. In her capacity she has begun institutional and classroom assessment as an ongoing integrative process.



## **Biographies**

### **Karen Kashmanian Oates, Ph.D.**

#### **Provost**

Dr. Karen Kashmanian Oates is the founding Provost of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology. A distinguished scholar and researcher, Dr. Oates joined the university in 2003 to oversee all academic and student affairs.

Her major accomplishments include the development and leadership for the processes required for state and regional accreditation to begin granting degrees and awarding credits, establishing faculty culture, university catalogs and handbooks. Her other responsibilities included hiring professional staff, student affairs professional and a highly qualified faculty to cover all university offerings; developing collaborations and partnerships with area universities, industry, and government agencies, and manages and directs the National Center for Science and Civic Engagement.

Dr. Oates is the co-principal investigator (P.I.) of the National Science Foundation funded program—Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER). As a national dissemination program, SENCER works to encourage and support faculty development through a coordinated set of activities and programs. SENCER courses and academic programs aim to strengthen the learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.

Prior to joining the leadership team at Harrisburg University, Dr. Oates spent several years at the National Institutes for Health/National Cancer Institute as a Visiting Research Fellow. In 1985,

she joined the faculty of George Mason University (GMU) and she became Associate Dean for the College of Integrative Studies (New Century College) at GMU in 1995.

During her tenure as Associate Dean and Professor of Integrative and Interdisciplinary Studies at GMU's New Century College she was responsible for curriculum development, assessment, scholarship programs, general fiscal planning and budgeting, and alumni and business relations. Dr. Oates was also responsible for oversight of the Center for Service and Leadership, Center for Field Study, Center for Child Welfare and Corporate and School partnerships as well as inter-institutional articulation agreements and Academic Common Market. She established and directed the science and engineering summer program for middle school students.

Dr. Oates has also been integrally involved with the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U) where she served as the Senior Science Scholar working towards integrating the Sciences into a variety of AAC&U projects. She also served as co-chair for AAC&U's Learning Communities: Promising Practices for Deepening Learning and Community Engagement conference. The conference focused on the best practices for achieving sustainable learning community programs within a wide variety of institutional contexts, and explored how learning in this dynamic, collaborative environment can deepen students' understanding, as well as their commitment to both the college/university and the civic community.

Her research and scholarly interests include international science and education initiatives, university assessment and evaluation protocols, innovative approaches to general education (structured cooperative learning environment), integration of experiential learning activities in the curriculum, assessment of experiential learning activities, science education reform, pipeline issues in science, engineering and technology education, the role of AIDS education in affecting student behavior, and biological activities of thymic hormones. Dr. Oates has authored or co-authored more than two dozen primary publications, presented at dozens of conferences, and received more than 20 grants in her career. She also teaches interdisciplinary learning communities such as "Death, Dying and Decision Making," "Cancer and its Social Impact," and "Leadership in a Changing Environment." She is particularly interested in integrating service learning into coursework.

She serves as Senior Science Advisor for the International Women in Science and Engineering. Through her National Science Foundation supported projects, she has worked in conjunction with several projects in South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, Republic of Georgia and Armenia. She has also consulted for numerous organizations, including the National Science Resource Center, the Educational Policy Improvement Center, the National Academy of Sciences, the Center for Educational Policy Research, the Association of American Colleges and Universities, the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, the Council of Graduate Schools, Project Kaleidoscope, and the College Board's Educational Policy Improvement Center.

Dr. Oates earned a bachelor's of science degree (B.S.) in Biology from Rochester Institute of Technology along with both a master's of science degree (M.S.) and a doctor of philosophy degree (Ph.D.) in Biochemistry from George Washington University.

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717.901.5102

karen.oates@HarrisburgU.net