

CELEBRATE PURDUE WOMEN

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WHAT DOES LEADERSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

To me, leadership is a means of having impact beyond my personal capacity and actions. If I'm able to engage with others to explore and create a shared vision, then, together, we have created the potential for change far beyond my individual reach. The 2009-2016 College of Engineering strategic plan, Extraordinary People, Global Impact, and its evolutionary sister, Extraordinary People, Extraordinary Growth, Extraordinary Impact, were created through conversations with literally hundreds of CoE stakeholders and friends, including faculty, staff, alumni and alumnae, and students. The implementation had even greater reach, and has had impact on the College's education and discovery missions, on our engagement locally and globally, and on who we are.

HOW HAVE YOU GROWN AS A LEADER?

One of the most significant points in my growth as a leader was my introduction by Frank Greene, Jr. to a model of leadership that resonated for its simplicity. Frank (MSEE Purdue, PhD Santa Clara University, 2001 inductee to the Silicon Valley Hall of Fame), gave a talk in the early 2000s to Purdue EPICS students about the VRE leadership model he had developed. I was drawn by its simplicity, but also by its even-handed emphasis on Vision, Relationships, and Execution, which serves as a reminder to stretch beyond the "vision space" where I most naturally live. It has served me well.

WHAT ROLE HAS COMMUNITY PLAYED IN YOUR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT?

Over time I've developed a broad definition of community, in recognition of the importance that many communities have played in my career. The communities of women colleagues at Purdue and in my professional world outside Purdue have played important roles in giving me the confidence to be a leader. My IEEE community helped me learn countless things about leadership, including strategic planning, working across boundaries, embracing multidisciplinary, finances, management, and strategies for effecting change. My early EPICS partnerships taught me that there is strength in numbers and gave me and my EPICS colleagues assurance that "different is good" even when it isn't easy or understood by others, and the continuing community that includes EPICS partners and students reminds me just how important the larger contexts for our work are. The Purdue Engineering community embraced, challenged, trusted, and inspired me to lead boldly. And my very local "community" of family members believed in and continue to believe in me.

WHAT ROLE HAS CONNECTION PLAYED IN YOUR JOURNEY?

The connection with others - colleagues, friends, family - has meant everything.

Leah Jamieson is Ransburg Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Purdue, Professor by courtesy in Purdue's School of Engineering Education, and John Edwardson Dean Emerita of Engineering. She is co-founder and past director of the Engineering Projects in Community Service - EPICS - program and 2007 president of the IEEE. Recognitions include the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) Gordon Prize for Innovation in Engineering and Technology Education; election to the NAE, the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, and to the American Society for Engineering Education Hall of Fame; and Fellow of IEEE and ASEE. She holds a BS mathematics from MIT, PhD in electrical engineering and computer science from Princeton, and honorary doctorates from Drexel and NJIT.