



ODUM AWARD

The Eugene P. Odum Award for Excellence in Ecology Education recognizes an ecologist for outstanding teaching, research, and mentoring activities, and for demonstrated ability in relating basic ecological principles to human affairs. The winner of the 2011 Odum Award is Dr. Charlene D'Avanzo, Professor of Ecology and Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at Hampshire College.

For the last 20 years, Dr. Charlene D'Avanzo has been working tirelessly, creatively, and collaboratively with Ecological Society of America committees and faculty members to improve and develop the field of ecology education into a scholarly area that showcases the application of education research in enhancing student learning in ecology. Her collaborators laud Dr. D'Avanzo for

her work in bringing vision, direction, and a mentoring voice to many education efforts at ESA. In 1999 she led a team of ESA educators to unify the ESA Education Section efforts, obtained National Science Foundation funding, and started the journal *Teaching Issues and Experiments in Ecology* (TIEE). The TIEE journal is now widely used by ESA members and beyond and is working toward its eighth volume.

Dr. D'Avanzo was also a major voice in the development of the Education plan for the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) project. Currently, she continues national training of ecology faculty on new techniques for enhancing learning of ecological concepts, in National Science Foundation-funded programs on how to use Biological Diagnostic Question Clusters for improving ecological and biological concept learning. She has become a mentor for many junior ecology faculty in how to apply education research to their undergraduate teaching enhancement. This latest project has opened up new intellectual opportunities and career possibilities for young ecology faculty members who have continued to participate in her workshops at the ESA Annual Meetings, developing into effective ecology teachers. She has been extremely generous of her time in mentoring young faculty and encouraging them to assess their talents and share them with others for the improvement of ecology education nationally.