

Dr. Judith A. Conlin

“Never one to accept the status quo, she has dedicated herself to working in a variety of fields—all with a shared goal of improving lives.”

—Jan Kaiser, 2012

Judith Conlin has positively impacted the lives of women and girls throughout the state of Iowa. An Iowa native, her efforts have helped young women, immigrant women, aging women, battered women, displaced women, disabled women and addicted women. Born in Fort Dodge, Conlin studied at the University of Iowa and the University of Edinburgh and ultimately earned her Doctorate of Arts in 1978 from Drake University. She embodies the goals of the women's movement for equality and upward mobility, especially for the disenfranchised. While teaching at Iowa State University, Conlin co-founded the Iowa Women's Studies Association in 1975; became the first Chair of the Ames Community School District's Advisory Committee on Multicultural Non-Sexist Curriculums in 1978; authored, "How to Get Your Bearings—How to Get a Job: A Guide for Women who are Unemployed, Underemployed and/or Underpaid" in 1980; developed a multilingual international resource guide for the Iowa International Center, "Welcome to Iowa," in 2009 and a multilingual website in 64 languages in 2011. She performed extensive fundraising for Planned Parenthood and acted as the executive director for the Animal Rescue League, the Alzheimer's Association and the Iowa Department of Elder Affairs. Conlin's commitment to people from every walk of life and dedication to the Iowa community have made a profound difference in the lives of women. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Teresa Marie Hernandez

“Terry Hernandez has been raising the expectations of and from women's organizations, assuring our voices are loudly heard locally, nationally and even internationally.”

—Renee Hardman, 2012

Terry Hernandez is often sought as an expert on issues facing girls and women and is a role model for those making a difference in the community. Born in 1956 in West Union, Iowa, she attended Iowa State University and later completed a Bachelor's Degree in Management and Marketing at Upper Iowa University. While she met notable success working as a public relations manager for Iowa Lutheran Hospital, Farm Bureau Insurance and United Bank Savings and Loan and later as metro director of public relations and marketing of YMCA of Greater Des Moines, her most exceptional accomplishments have come from her work with the Chrysalis Foundation. Hired as the first Chrysalis staff person in 1997, Hernandez worked tirelessly to transform the foundation's role as "funder" to "investor," and ultimately "partner" with community organizations around the state that work to assure the financial stability and independence of women and girls. In 1998, she created Chrysalis After-School, a program now serving hundreds of adolescent girls in more than two dozen metro area elementary and middle schools. In 2006, Hernandez established the Women's Alliance, a partnership of organizations sharing knowledge and best practices and exploring avenues of collaboration to support girls and women in the Greater Des Moines area. More than 10 years ago, Hernandez led the formation of what is now the Central Iowa Funders Forum, a partnership of public and private grant making organizations in Greater Des Moines that discuss issues and share ideas on philanthropy and community development. Terry Hernandez has had a significant impact on the lives of women and girls in Iowa throughout her career and through her leadership of the Chrysalis Foundation. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Dr. Dorothy Hubbard Schwieder

As a professional area of research and teaching, the history of Midwestern women, particularly farm and small-town women, would not exist without Dorothy Schwieder.

—Holly Carver, 2011

Dr. Dorothy Schwieder is a pioneer in Iowa's and women's history. Throughout decades of service, she has made lasting contributions to the state of Iowa. Born in 1933 in the small town of Presho, South Dakota, she earned a history degree from Dakota Wesleyan University; in 1962, she and her husband Elmer moved to Ames with their two children. In 1966, she began her career at Iowa State University as a part-time instructor in the History Department, and she earned a master's degree in history in 1968. Schwieder took a full-time position in the ISU History Department in 1974; in 1981 she received her Ph.D. from the University of Iowa, and she became a full professor in 1988. Her contributions to Iowa and women's history have included nine books, numerous book chapters and scholarly articles and hundreds of media appearances, speeches and presentations. These efforts have been met with honors and awards from the state of Iowa, the Iowa Humanities Board and numerous academic organizations, among others. Her academic work developed the field of Iowa history at ISU and throughout the state, and she helped to advance the study of rural women's history. In 1998, Iowa State University named her as a university professor. She retired from ISU in 2000 but has remained active as a scholar. Since retirement, she has authored a personal memoir of growing up on the Great Plains and has co-edited a sesquicentennial history of Iowa State for the university's sesquicentennial celebration. She has two children, David Schwieder and Diane Risius and two granddaughters. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mary Parks Stier

"Mary was a strong supporter of women in the workplace having dealt herself with tough scenarios and glass ceilings during her career, having always overcome."

Laura L. Hollingsworth, 2011

Mary Parks Stier is an accomplished media executive and visionary Iowa leader who blazes trails to empower women to reach their highest potential. Born in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1956, Stier attended the University of Iowa and graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1978. Fresh out of college, she began her career with the Gannett Company, Inc. when she joined the Iowa City Press-Citizen. In 1991, she was promoted to president and publisher of the Rockford Register Star in Rockford, Ill. She returned to Iowa in 2000 to serve as president and publisher of the Des Moines Register, which she led until 2007. Stier empowered women to strive for roles of leadership throughout her career and community service, always encouraging women to come together and learn from each other's experiences. She placed 15 women into top roles as publishers, taught a class entitled "The Emerging Leadership of Women in the 21st Century" at Drake University, hosted and shared her own story at the 2004 Smart Talk Women's Lecture series and started The Brilliance Group, whose mission is to "bring the wisdom and grace of women's leadership into the world." She is the author of *Lady Leader: 10 Ways to Play in Big Boy Business* and continues to inspire woman leaders through her example. She was inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame in 2012.