

**From the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Evening of Recognition presented by the Center for Excellence  
Central Washington University  
Comments by President James Gaudino**

**May 20, 2009**

**Presidential Administrator: Ellen Hall**

The Presidential Award—Administrator goes to Dr. Ellen Hall. (This was supposed to be a surprise, but I accidentally let it leak at last week's Foundation Board Meeting.) As many of you know, Ellen has done an outstanding job as interim vice president for university relations, assisting the university with completion of its first comprehensive gifts campaign and bringing stability to a unit that was experiencing significant challenge when she arrived. I knew from conversations with Jeri McIntyre that Ellen had been a calming and collaborative influence on the cabinet and on her division and a trusted confidant and advisor. I'd add to that list "mentor," When I arrived, the university was in the midst of a virtual budget firestorm (still is, by the way) that didn't allow for much "easing into the job." Ellen graciously shared all she had learned as a former university president with me.

**Here's what some of her colleagues and staff have said about her:**

**Jeri McIntyre notes:** In just a short time, she became a trusted and respected resource, a team member, and a leader in cabinet-level discussions and initiatives. Her colleagues have commended her for her broad understanding of university leadership, her calm professionalism, her communication skills, her sense of humor, her commitment to building consensus, and her ability to motivate and inspire.

**From Jim Armstong:** Ellen is deeply fond of people. No one's issue is too petty for concern and attention, and no one's success goes without genuine celebration. Not coincidentally, her people would do anything for her. It's a style of leadership that is natural and effective and can't be faked.

**Becky Watson comments:** Ellen's leadership at Central has been marked with openness and inclusion.

**Charlotte Tullos says:** Ellen has truly shared her talents, experience, and wisdom in an incredibly positive manner. Her calm demeanor and excellent leadership skills have been very comforting during the challenging budget issues.

**From Jen Gray:** Ellen came in at a time when we needed strong leadership and direction. She handled our issues with ease, Southern grace, and a sense of

humor and led our division to a higher level of productivity, achievement, and collaboration.

**Rob Lowery comments:** Ellen has made it a priority to engage and develop a personal relationship with all members of the University Relations' staff, including through her open door policy and an invitation to take all staff members to lunch during her tenure!!

Sadly, Ellen's contract will end this summer and she'll return to her home in New York. Still her influence on CWU will remain long after she leaves. For all of these reasons, it is my great pleasure to recognize Ellen's contributions with the Evening of Recognition Presidential Award-Administrator.

Notes on who's who:

**Jerilyn McIntyre**, President Emerita, retired December 31, 2009

**Jim Armstrong**, Director, Alumni Relations

**Becky Watson**, Director, Public Relations and Marketing

**Charlotte Tullos**, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

**Jen Gray**, Assistant Vice President, Development