

WILLIAM & MARY
RETIREMENT OF EUGENE ALLEN ROCHE
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Eugene Allen “Gene” Roche received his undergraduate degree in English from Hamilton College in upstate New York and his M.S. and Ed.D. degrees in Adult Education from Syracuse University. Professor Roche has worked in higher education for 36 years, including 14 years as the Director of the Career Center at Hamilton College and 22 years in multiple roles at William & Mary.

Gene came to William & Mary in 1998 as Director of Communications and Organizational Development for the Office of Information Technology and assumed the position of Director of Academic Information Services two years later. In that role, he was responsible of supporting faculty in using technology in their research and teaching - both in Arts and Sciences and in the professional schools. At the same time, he was appointed as a clinical faculty member in the School of Education, working with both the Higher Education program and Curriculum and Educational Technology. He was appointed to his current role as Executive Professor in 2010.

In 2019 Professor Roche received the Shirley Aceto Award, presented annually to a member of the instructional or professional faculty who demonstrates an exceptional commitment to excellence in service to the campus community. In presenting the award, Provost Michael Halleran cited him as a person who, in his role as Executive Professor of Higher Education, “had modeled the W&M values of engagement and inclusion in guiding and inspiring faculty, students and staff to explore new opportunities in teaching and learning.”

Gene has been a leader in helping William & Mary develop e-learning programs that use technology effectively to serve students who might not otherwise have access to a William & Mary education. He worked as a member of the planning team for the hybrid Executive Ed.D. program and developed and taught courses in the Inquiry Core for that program. Following the successful launch of the Executive Ed.D. at the School of Education, he was named Director of University E-Learning Initiatives and was instrumental in designing e-learning outreach both for summer courses in Arts and Sciences and for the Online MBA program at the Mason School of Business.

While embracing the role of practitioner/scholar, Gene has been a leading advocate for problem-based learning and student self-direction in his teaching, research and service. His innovative course designs and use of individualized learning contracts have encouraged students to integrate their academic work and their professional goals, and many have made significant contributions to many William & Mary units. Members of his classes served as researchers and consultants for projects in Information Technology, the Roy Charles Center and multiple units in the School of Education. The students in his final class in Educational Planning provided much of the

foundational research that contributed directly to the launch of William & Mary's new Studio for Teaching and Learning Innovation in 2019.

William & Mary and the School of Education have benefited greatly from Professor Roche's integration of technical experience and skill, pedagogical knowledge, and leadership ability and his commitment to applying research-based principles to improving William & Mary's ability to serve our students and the Commonwealth. Therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Visitors acknowledges the retirement of Eugene A. Roche; expresses its appreciation for his many contributions to William & Mary; and approves, with deep gratitude for his 22 years of service, a change in status from Executive Professor of Education to Executive Professor of Education, Emeritus.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Board and a copy of the same be delivered to Professor Roche with best wishes for continuing and creative work in the years ahead.