

SONDRA MYERS

Senior Fellow for International Civic and Cultural Projects

University of Scranton, Scranton, PA

Telephone 570-941-4089 Fax 570-941-4386

E-mail: sondra.myers@scranton.edu

Sondra Myers earned a BA in philosophy from Connecticut College for Women and holds honorary degrees from Misericordia College and the University of Scranton. In 1994, she received the Connecticut College Medal, the highest honor given to alumni of the college. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. A frequent speaker and writer on the arts, humanities and civil society, Myers focuses on two major themes: the integration of culture into public policy in the United States, and the strengthening of democracy and the culture of interdependence worldwide.

2006—present Senior Fellow for International, Civic and Cultural Projects and

Director of the Schemel Forum, The University of Scranton

As Senior Fellow Myers focuses on the role of the university in strengthening democracy and the central role that citizens play in making democracy work. She lectures, writes articles, organizes and moderates roundtable discussions in the U.S. and abroad.

As Director of the Schemel Forum Myers directs a non-credit continuing education program open to people of all ages. It features evening courses, world-affairs luncheon seminars and special collaborative programs.

2001—2005 Senior Associate, The Democracy Collaborative, University of Maryland

As Senior Associate, Myers organized and coordinated meetings of The Collaborative's International Roundtables in Washington and Berlin and edited reports on their proceedings.

2003 Co-founded and directed the inaugural Interdependence Day (September 12, 2003)

American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, PA

1999 —2001 Project Director, *President's Millennium Seminars: The University for a New Democratic Era*

The George Washington University

2000—2001 Rapoport Democracy Fellow, Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy

Rutgers University

1996 —2000 Senior Advisor on civic affairs to president Claire Gaudiani

Connecticut College

Since 1996–Present

Myers has presented programs on democracy and civil society in Prague, Cracow, Budapest, Buenos Aires, Johannesburg, Kigali, Nairobi, Bethlehem (Palestine) and in cities throughout the United States. In addition she has organized and moderated symposia on culture and public policy for academic institutions and cultural organizations including Lehigh University, the Anderson Ranch Arts Center, The New School for Social Research and the Education Department of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She has spoken on behalf of State Department in South Africa and Kenya.

***1993 to 1995* Special Assistant to the Chairman at the National Endowment for the Humanities for Partnerships and Collaboration**

***1987 to 1993* Cultural Advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Robert P. Casey**

Myers created an office for culture awards for the arts, humanities and sciences and governor's seminars in ideas and tasks.

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Past chair of the Pennsylvania Humanities Council

Past president of the Federation of State Humanities Councils

Founding president of Citizens for the Arts in Pennsylvania and the State Arts Advocacy League of America

Past chair of ArtTable, Inc., Washington Chapter

Former member of the Public Education Committee of the American Bar Association

Served on the Board of Directors of the Centre for Creative Communities in the United Kingdom

Served on the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts from 1980 to 1985

Former member and vice chair of the Board of Trustees at the University of Scranton (PA)

Former Trustee of the University of the Arts in Philadelphia

CONSULTATIONS:

Radio Free Europe, Connecticut College, the Municipality of Scottsdale, AZ, the Association of Texas Colleges and Universities, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, Anderson Ranch Arts Center in Aspen, CO, and the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, AL.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS

2011—present Appointed by US President Barack Obama to serve on the Commission for Presidential Scholars

1993—1995 Appointed by US President Bill Clinton to serve as Special Assistant to the Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities

1980—1985 Appointed by US President Jimmy Carter to serve on the US Commission of Fine Arts

PUBLICATIONS & MEDIA

Conceived & Edited:

The New Rwanda II: Successes and Challenges on the Ground (2014)

The New Rwanda: Prosperity and the Public Good (2008)

The Democracy Reader (2002)

Democracy is a Discussion II: The Challenges and Promise of a New Democratic Era (1998)

Democracy is a Discussion: Civic Engagement in Old and New Democracies (1996)

Conceived and Co-edited:

The Pluralist Paradigm: Democracy and Religion in the 21st Century (2006)

The Interdependence Handbook (2004)

The Courage to Care (1986)

Journal Articles:

Act as Though You Live in a Free Society

Myers, S. (2013). *Act as Though You Live in a Free Society*. Reimagining democratic societies: a new era of personal and social responsibility, Council of Europe Higher Education Series No. 18, 191-196.

The University's Sacred Mission

Myers, S. (2014). The University's Sacred Mission. JGE: The Journal Of General Education, 63(1), 64-71.