



During her career at WMU Dr. Ford has provided instruction in undergraduate and graduate courses in three areas: organizational communication, interpersonal communication, and health communication. Her research interests focused on supportive communication, the communication of health messages within disenfranchised communities, and contextualized understandings of health communication practices. As a member of the university community she has served on multiple committees. Her service responsibilities included the OCHAD executive committee as member and co-chair, the Graduate Studies Council as member and chair, and multiple planning, selection, review and oversight committees. Most recently she has served on successive committees associated with the WMU Essential Studies program. In 2001 Dr. Ford began her service to the department as Director of Graduate Studies, a position she held for 8 years. In July of 2009 she began her tenure as Director of the School of Communication and she will retire from that position and WMU. Dr. Ford gratefully acknowledges that any recognition of her contributions at WMU should be credited to collaborative colleagues across the university and at all levels of the university, and to her inspiring, interesting, and dedicated students over the years who made her a better teacher and a better person.