

Diversity Champion Spotlight: Barbara Golden, Biochemistry

Dr. Barbara Golden, Professor of Biochemistry, has been a tireless leader in working to improve the climate for women (and everyone) in Purdue University's College of Agriculture and across our campus.

Dr. Golden joined our faculty in 1998 as an assistant professor. She was promoted to Associate Professor in 2004 and to Professor in 2012. She was named a University Faculty Scholar in 2014. Few faculty members in our College have made more substantive and impactful contributions to improving our climate than Dr. Barbara Golden. She has been a passionate advocate for diversity and inclusiveness in the College.



As co-leader of the College of Agriculture Women Faculty group (Women Faculty in Agriculture) from 2009-2014, Dr. Golden advocated for dedicated time during administrator interviews for the Women Faculty in Agriculture group (which is now part of our interview process) to provide an opportunity for candidates for administrative positions to share their insights on diversity and inclusion with our women faculty.

Dr. Golden has been actively involved in the university's ADVANCE initiative for several years. In 2013, she was named a Purdue ADVANCE Diversity Catalyst. In that role, she joins a select group of high-impact, senior faculty who engage faculty and staff across the university in conversations about diversity and climate issues in their units and across campus.

Dr. Golden conceived and led a review of mentoring policies and practices in the College of Agriculture in 2011. This review included a College-wide survey of departmental faculty mentoring programs and resulted in the development of "Ten Best Practices for College of Agriculture Faculty Mentoring Programs". Dr. Golden presented the results of the survey and the best practices to our leadership team and a number of academic departments. The college uses these best practices now to guide our mentoring efforts.

Dr. Barbara Golden is a key contributor to research, undergraduate and graduate education and the advancement of women's issues in her department, her college, and across the university. She has done outstanding work in improving the climate for our women faculty and staff in the College. She gives both her time and her leadership skills in support of Purdue women at all levels. And, she does all this with no expectation of recognition – she is completely selfless and simply wants our College to provide the most positive and supportive climate we can for every faculty, staff and student.