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Penn State Homecoming Announces 2013 Honorary Grand Marshal

Anne Ard was selected by the Homecoming Executive Committee as a representation of university and community dedication

University Park, Pa. (Apr. 24, 2013) — At Penn State Homecoming's Third Annual Legacy Celebration this afternoon, the Alumni Relations Committee finally revealed that fellow Penn Stater and community activist Anne Ard would represent and honor the upcoming Homecoming season as the 2013 Honorary Grand Marshal.

Ard has served as the Executive Director of the Centre County Women's Resource Center since 1997, and has worked to provide comfort or care to victims of domestic violence or sexual assault in the Penn State and State College community. She has also served as the Chair of the Centre County Domestic and Sexual Violence Task Force on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board, and even served on the board of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape.

It is Ard's work with the community that she says makes her new title very special to her. "I think it's a really great opportunity to really represent Penn State and to honor people in the community who deserve recognition," Ard said. "It is also important to me for the opportunity to bring awareness to the Women's Resource Center and the work that we do with sexual assault and domestic violence victims. It's all about what's happening at Penn State now and how we can make it a better place for all of us."

A Penn State Ph.D. graduate herself, Ard takes pride in the fact that her family is a generation of past and present Penn Staters, with her husband also receiving his Ph.D. degree from the university, her daughter receiving her graduate degree, and her son currently studying as a junior.

"We have a strong connection to the university and it has been such a fun part of my life and everyone in my family for over 30 years," Ard said. "It is extraordinary to have this honor."

The Homecoming Executive Committee selected Ard from their applicant pool for a handful of reasons, but Alumni Relations Director Jessica Javage said Ard was the fit for the job because she embodies service to the Penn State and surrounding community.

"Anne is not only a leader but also a friend to this community," Javage said. "She inspires young leaders and brings up topics that really affect people. She is incredible."

About Us

Penn State Homecoming is a student-run organization with aims to celebrate tradition and instill pride in all members of the Penn State family through active engagement of students, alumni, faculty and staff across the community. Our organization is comprised of many student volunteers who donate their time to creating a multitude of events that make the Homecoming celebration a yearlong event.

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