

Lynn H. Yeakel, MSM



Lynn Yeakel was director of Drexel University College of Medicine’s Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership™ where she held the Betty A. Cohen Chair in Women’s Health since 2002. Yeakel developed several programs including the Woman One Award and Scholarship Fund and the D. Walter Cohen Shared Leadership Scholarship for underrepresented medical students. Over nearly two decades, those programs have raised almost \$3 million in tuition support for 36 students. She created Conversations About Women’s Health for community audiences, and the university-wide Sex and Gender Research Forum. She brought the national Marion Spencer Fay Award to Drexel and is the Founder and President of Vision 2020 – now VisionForward – a national initiative of the Institute to achieve gender equity. Vision 2020 hosted “Women 100,” the 19th Amendment centennial commemoration, in 2020-2021, accomplishing its programmatic goals despite the pandemic.

Yeakel was a founder of Women’s Way, the first and largest women’s fundraising coalition in the nation, and served as its CEO from 1980 until 1992, when she ran for the U.S. Senate. She drew national attention in what was called the “Year of the Woman,” winning the primary and nearly unseating the longtime incumbent. In 1994, she was appointed by President Clinton to be Mid-Atlantic Regional Director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Yeakel was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate and a former trustee of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and received a Master of Science in Management degree from the American College. She was active in leadership positions for local and national non-profit organizations and was the recipient of numerous honors and awards for leadership and humanitarian contributions, including the Pennsylvania Citizen Action Award, the Lucretia Mott Award, the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania Award, the John Gardner Lifetime Achievement Award from Common Cause, and the Integrity Award from the Philadelphia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

Her second book, *Majority Rules: Completing the Journey to Women’s Equality* was published in 2020. In it she looked to the past, present and future in making the case for women, who are 52% of the population, to have a 50/50 share of leadership positions. Her first book, *A Will and A Way* (2010), presented insights into the key issues of women’s independence based on her own experience and lessons from history.