



HUMAN ECOLOGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 2010 HELEN BULL VANDERVORT ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

ARDEN S. HANDLER '76



Arden has devoted her career to researching and advocating for improved health for women, children, and families, especially among working and low-income mothers.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Arden discovered her passion for maternal and child health as a student at Cornell when, as part of the Blue Bus, she joined an effort to form a health clinic in eastern Tompkins County. This passion followed her to Chicago where she was a founding and continuing board member of the Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition, which focuses on advocacy, education, and policy development. She is a member of multiple state and national task forces and working groups in the area of women's and children's health and has recently been appointed to the Illinois Governor's Task Force on Children's Savings Accounts.

AT WORK:

Since 1987, Arden has been on the faculty of the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Public Health, where she is currently a Professor of Community Health Sciences. She is PI and co-director of the UIC-SPH Maternal & Child Health Program. Her research focuses on strategies for improving adverse pregnancy outcomes with a particular emphasis on prenatal care including issues of access, utilization and satisfaction. She teaches courses in maternal & child health policy and reproductive & perinatal epidemiology.

AT CORNELL:

Arden holds a bachelor's degree in Community Health from the College of Human Ecology. For the past two years, Arden has nurtured three students as a Human Ecology CyberMentor. In summer 2005, she was a visiting professor in the College and collaborated with Associate Professor Kosali Simon on a paper examining the impact of welfare reform on women's insurance status prior to, during, and after pregnancy.

AWARDS:

During her career, Arden has been honored with many prestigious awards for her research and service. Most recently, she received the March of Dimes Jonas Salk Leadership in Community and Public Health Award in 2008.

