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Media Contact:

Emily Fijol, 517-484-1880 x202
efijol@michiganwomen.org

**Dr. Gladys Beckwith Retires as
Michigan Women's Studies Association President**

LANSING, MI. – Dr. Gladys Beckwith retired as the President of the Michigan Women's Studies Association (MWSA) on June 30, 2010. The announcement came at the February meeting of the MWSA Board of Directors. Dr. Beckwith served as a faculty member in the Department of American Thought and Language at Michigan State University (MSU) for 32 years. In 1973 she and a small group of colleagues founded the MWSA in response to the glaring lack of course materials for and about women. She has been the President of the MWSA for the past 37 years.

Dr. Beckwith recognized the need for increasing the visibility of women's roles in history and women's studies beyond the MSU campus. In 1987 the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame opened in the historic Cooley-Haze House after the MWSA raised \$250,000 to repair and update the turn of the century structure. The museum features changing history exhibits, an art gallery for Michigan women artists, and is the home to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, which today has over 250 honorees. Dr. Beckwith served as the unpaid Executive Director of the Center for 28 years, from 1980 until 2008.

Dr. Beckwith has held other positions of distinction and is the recipient of many honors. She served on the Lansing Board of Education for 18 years. In 1996, she was the recipient of the MSU's Presidential Award for Community Service. In 1998, the Michigan Women's Foundation presented her with the Woman of Achievement and Courage Award. In 2005, the Detroit News named her one of the 12 "Michiganians of the Year." And in 2010, she was inducted into the Genesee Regional Women's Hall of Fame as part of the inaugural class.