2021 Dickson Awardee: Jeanne Ferrante

Jeanne Ferrante was appointed Associate Dean, Jacobs School of Engineering, and served in that role until 2013. Beginning in 2004, she worked in collaboration with the Dean, JSOE, UC legal counsel, and Academic Affairs, to institute policies for engineering recruitment. With her appointment as Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Equity in 2008, she was able to provide academic leadership in advancing faculty diversity more broadly. She served in this role until 2013 and during that time she initiated Faculty Equity Advisors in each UCSD school/division and worked with the Advisors to remove barriers to faculty equity in policies and procedures and foster an inclusive climate. The UCSD Women’s Leadership Alliance was co-founded by Professor Ferrante where she worked with over 100 senior faculty and staff to promote networking, leadership, professional development, and recognition of women campus leaders.

Since her retirement, Professor Ferrante has served as a mentor for the Chancellor’s Scholars, a program of first-generation students mentored by Emeriti, providing the intellectual, social and cultural preparation necessary for a successful college experience. Most recently, Professor Ferrante serves as co-Chair to a Work Group tasked with developing a proposal to establish an on-campus retirement community. Conceived to be a public/private partnership, the UCSD Retirement Community is envisioned as a state-of-the-art home to a stable, diverse, and engaged community of resident adults 60+ benefitting from the application of the best practices in healthy aging developed here at UC San Diego and elsewhere.