

Rhonda L. Brown

Rhonda has been a direct report to 10 college presidents, serving in various capacities ranging from Special Assistant to the President, Interim Dean of Students, Affirmative Action Officer, Counsel, Director of Institutional Equity and Associate Vice President for Multicultural Affairs. “It’s odd to think of my career in terms of the institutions and presidents I’ve served. Each one was different and each one taught me a lesson that prepared me to do the job at hand.”

Rhonda started her academic career at her alma mater, Albright College. Albright is a small college, deeply rooted in liberal education. “My experience at Albright was the perfect combination of education, preparation and nurturing. My professors knew me and helped guide me. I consider myself especially fortunate that many of my college mentors were also my first administrative mentors.” After Albright, Rhonda accepted the position of Affirmative Action Officer at the College of the Holy Cross. “Holy Cross taught me the value of Jesuit education and social justice. It left me with the idea that higher education could and should enforce the credo, ‘to whom much is given, much is required.’” Finally, before coming to Temple, Rhonda was the Director of Institutional Equity at the University of Notre Dame. “I was at Notre Dame at a time when the very principles of affirmative action were under attack. Their position was, we’re going to do what’s right and that’s all there is to it. Notre Dame taught me that successful division one athletic programs could not only coexist, but actually thrive in academically competitive environments.”

Rhonda came to Temple in the summer of 2005. “I came to Temple because it was an opportunity that I could not pass up. It was a chance to help create an office that had campus-wide responsibilities for multiculturalism on a campus that already had significantly diverse faculty, student and staff populations. For once, I wasn’t starting with a blank sheet of paper. This time it was more like finding photos of hands, feet, legs, a torso, and a head. All I have to do is put them together and make them work as an effective unit. It’s a challenge, but I’m up for it!”

Rhonda has taught courses and lectured in constitutional law, business law, affirmative action, diversity, harassment, and race discrimination. Rhonda shares her life with her daughter, Ashleigh, their dog, Benji and several other critters.

rlbrown@temple.edu