

SHARON W. ALESTALO, M.S.

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Biographical Summary

Sharon W. Alestalo, M.S. is the program director for Syracuse University's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program and the SU ADVANCE project where she works closely with faculty to design and implement programs for freshman to faculty women that support their persistence and success in science and engineering. Sharon came to the University with 25 years of clinical and executive management experience in human services. Her bachelor's and master's degrees are from the University at Albany in sociology and rehabilitation counseling respectively.

Her first 10 years of practice was spent supervising other practitioners and counseling adults with a wide variety of disabilities as they pursued meaningful vocational activities and independence. Sharon brought her human relation and management skills to the field of youth and families for the following fifteen years serving as the executive director of Girls Incorporated of CNY. Sharon has a great deal of experience in designing unique, evidence-based programs that address critical and timely issues. Sharon has provided consulting services to other agencies and colleges over the years. Recently Sharon completed evaluation studies and consultation and writing support for SUNY Oswego as they pursued the submittal of a \$2.5 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation project. She has facilitated and conducted workshops across the country sharing her expertise on gender equity, girls and their strengths, the challenges affecting women, and advocating on their behalf. Sharon has co-authored conference proceedings and articles on topics such as women in STEM, male engagement in gender equity, and global engineering. Sharon has received awards for her community leadership and advocacy.

Having always embraced research and its importance to direct service she delighted in her opportunity to translate research into best practice in the field of child welfare. At Syracuse University, from 2003 – 2008, she managed a federal grant project in the Falk Institute of Sport and Human Dynamics overseeing the development and evaluation of a comprehensive, evidence-based curriculum designed to equip current and future child welfare workers with the skills and information they need to effectively impact the lives of children by strengthening the relationships of the adults who raise them. Sharon is now applying her knowledge of gender equity and program development to the management of SU's Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) program. In addition, she works with the SU ADVANCE federal project designing programs to support the recruitment, retention and advancement of women STEM faculty and institutional transformation. In this position she has co-authored several papers on topics such as male engagement in promoting gender equity, faculty mentoring, program model for women STEM doctoral students and research collaboration.

"For 15 years I was the executive director of Girls Incorporated of Central New York encouraging girls to pursue nontraditional careers and empower them to be *strong, smart and bold*. For me designing and facilitating programs for women on campus, from freshman to faculty, and helping to transform the campus to enable inclusion and support diversity are logical next step to facilitating equal outcomes for women in our society. At this point in the continuum, I can ensure that women of all generations will see sisters, mothers and mentors who are pursuing excellence based on their talents and interests and not a prescribed role."