



ASSOCIATION OF
DONOR RELATIONS
PROFESSIONALS

FOUNDERS AWARD

is hereby presented to

Roberta O'Hara

Roberta O'Hara, we celebrate you as the 2019 recipient of the Association of Donor Relations Professionals Founders Award and commemorate your inspiring and impressive record of service not only to ADRP but also to our profession itself.

The pages of ADRP's history are populated with references to you and your robust contributions to our earliest conversations. Credited as a founding member of ADRP's predecessor, the New England Stewardship Conference, and ADRP's inaugural treasurer, you were among those who saw the future of the field and had the foresight to recognize the benefits of banding together as practitioners to share common practices, counsel, and camaraderie.

That commitment to content and community is a constant through your career and through your contributions to ADRP. Your work in donor relations began at Princeton University, where over the course of nearly three decades of award-winning, attention-getting leadership, you rose through the ranks. All along the way you generously shared your knowledge and experience with our members as a regular regional and international conference speaker, contributor to *The Hub*, and webinar presenter, not to mention countless ad-hoc consultations with colleagues from across the country.

Even as you turned in your tiger stripes for a return to your alma mater, Rutgers University, where, as the Associate Vice President for Donor Relations, you now define and develop the overall stewardship and donor relations strategy for the entire University system, you continued to generously guide the creation and curation of the substance at the very core of ADRP's mission. You chaired the content committee for the 2014 International Conference in Seattle, returning the following year to chair our 12th Annual Conference in Memphis — all to stellar reviews and exceptional turnout.

You've been with us since the beginning, but we are not your only passion. You are a nationally-recognized expert in our field, and have been the principal for Gramercy, LLC, a donor relations and stewardship consultancy. You are a prolific writer (I personally look forward to your missives on LinkedIn) not only as it relates to your day-job but also to your extracurricular interests through which you have combined your way with words with your love of literature as a reviewer on Bookreporter.com. A devoted mother and daughter, you also give selflessly to your family, even as you openly swoon for Hugh Jackman.

You are a renaissance woman, not only in terms of your many interests and talents, but also in terms of the continued remaking and reimagining that you've enabled within ADRP. In the last couple of years, you have quietly, but earnestly, worked with and on behalf of the Board to help us continue to shape ADRP's content offerings to meet the emerging and growing needs of senior executives in our profession — people whose careers, like yours, have expanded and grown in step with our profession.

Through your keen insight you helped articulate the audience's needs, identified and pursued opportunities to convene that audience, and provided them with meaningful and relevant content. This year, thanks primarily to your vision and devotion, we introduced Gather@ADRP, a conference within our conference for interactive, open conversations about shared pressing issues, executive professional development, and the big ideas and influences shaping the future of fundraising and our field.

One of my favorite reflections on volunteerism is from author Elizabeth Andrew who writes that "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." Roberta, in recognition of your extraordinary love for ADRP, your infinite service to our profession, and with great eagerness and anticipation for all that is yet to come, I am proud to present you with the 2019 Association of Donor Relations Professionals Founders Award. Congratulations!

With sincere gratitude,

Jen McGrath, President

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