



CommUnity Award

Pamela Hughes

Pamela Hughes is a woman who has made significant contributions in her profession, in the Princeton community, and as the “First Lady” of Mercer County.

Pamela grew up in Princeton and has spent much of her adult life here. After attending Smith College, she worked at several major advertising agencies in New York before returning to Princeton and accepting a job in the Development Office at Princeton

University, where she discovered her true calling. After only one year there as secretary to the Director of Leadership Gifts, in 1990 she followed her boss to Barnard College to assist in the college’s first \$100 million capital campaign. Working closely with the trustees, alumnae, volunteers, donors and students, Pamela thrived on using her skills at relationships, event planning, and staff management.

In 1993, Pamela was lured home again by the Institute for Advanced Study, where she has risen through the ranks of the Development Office because of her commitment to excellence, her leadership ability, and her ability to engage with others. She currently serves as Director of Individual Gifts and Liaison to the Friends of the Institute, a vital link between the Institute and the greater Princeton community.

Although Pamela is quiet and soft-spoken, she is a strong advocate for empowering women. She cut her teeth standing up for women’s issues when her mother dragged her to every demonstration from Princeton to Washington, DC in support of the Equal Rights Amendment. She is particularly proud of her work on the board of Martin House in Trenton, providing single mothers with housing and life skills.

But the list of local nonprofit boards that have benefitted from her deep experience is long and varied—from Artworks of Trenton to Corner House of Princeton; from The First Presbyterian Church of Ewing to Women in Development of Mercer County, as well as the Arts Council of Princeton. Pamela’s personal passion for helping those in need works hand in hand with her professional fundraising for the Institute, an internationally renowned organization.

Pamela and her husband, Brian, Mercer County Executive, have one son, Sullivan, who will graduate from Princeton High School this June.