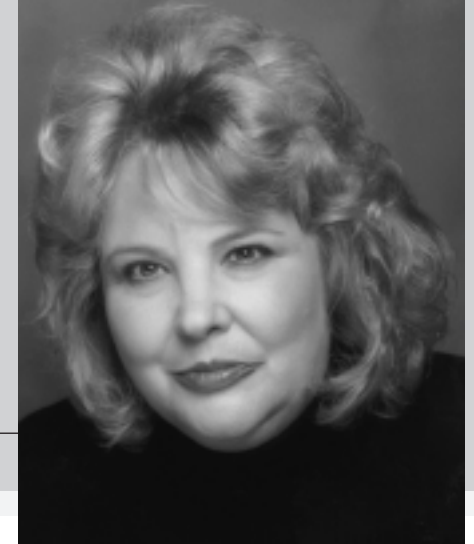




DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

Emily Stover DeRocco '71



To Emily Stover DeRocco for her outstanding leadership in workforce development, training, and economic development in the United States.

Emily Stover DeRocco, former assistant U.S. Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training, was named president of the Manufacturing Institute, the research, education, and workforce arm of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) in March 2008. DeRocco had joined the National Association of Manufacturers in January 2008 after more than six years as head of the Employment and Training Administration in the Department of Labor. In addition to her new role, she will continue to serve as a senior vice president with NAM.

DeRocco has worked in training and workforce development for nearly 20 years. From 1989 to 2000, she was executive director and chief operating officer of the National Association of State Workforce Agencies. There, she represented the state secretaries, commissioners, and directors of labor and workforce services before the

executive branch and Congress. During her 11-year tenure, she also developed a Center for Employment Security and Educational Research.

In June 2001, President George W. Bush nominated DeRocco to serve as assistant secretary of labor for employment and training, and she was confirmed by the Senate in early August of the same year, becoming the first woman to hold the position. As assistant secretary, DeRocco represented the United States in numerous international forums and was named to and led boards and commissions in areas ranging from the future of the aerospace industry to the aging of the American workforce. Among her responsibilities, she chaired the Secretary of Education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education's panel on education and the workforce, and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Interagency Working Group on Manufacturing Education and Workforce Committee. She also was vice chair of the Secretary of Defense's Base Realignment and Closure Economic Adjustment Committee.

As assistant secretary, DeRocco managed an \$11.1 billion budget that funds workforce

development programs across the country. During her time at the Department of Labor, DeRocco developed a demand-driven workforce investment system linking employment, education, and economic development. As assistant secretary, she was instrumental in securing funding for Pennsylvania's statewide plastics project—to expand the state's plastics sector—and the mining technology associate's degree program at Penn State Fayette. She is most proud of launching 39 regional economic development transformations across the nation, using talent development to grow new businesses.

In her new position with the National Association of Manufacturers, DeRocco remains bullish on the potential for the American workforce. "In order for the United States to remain the global manufacturing leader, we must ensure an educated and prepared workforce to drive innovation," she says, disputing the common perception that good manufacturing jobs have been lost to globalization.

One of DeRocco's goals in her new position is to continue addressing the

shortage of trained workers at all levels of manufacturing by ensuring that workers from legacy industries and young people are gaining the skills needed by employers.

Before entering the workforce development field, DeRocco worked in several federal agencies, including the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Department of Energy. After graduating from Penn State with a bachelor's degree in journalism, DeRocco's first job was in public relations for Harrisburg Hospital. In 1982, she earned a J.D. from Georgetown Law Center.

A life member of the Penn State Alumni Association, DeRocco is married to Tom DeRocco '62. She has three stepchildren, all Penn State graduates, and a daughter who graduated from Dickinson College and currently serves in the U.S. Army in Korea. DeRocco and her husband live in Washington, D.C.

