

2010 ALUMNI FELLOW

Paula Donson

Paula Donson '82g Edu is director of workforce and organization development for Alaska Railroad Corporation, overseeing organization planning and development. She also is an adjunct faculty member since 2001 with the University of Alaska Anchorage, where she helped create the Master of Science Project Management Program.

Donson previously worked with Alaska USA Federal Credit Union, and prior to that with Alaska Seafood International as vice president of administration and human resources. From 1989–1995, Donson was with Wakefern Food Corporation, where she helped the company achieve its goal of hiring minorities and women to fill 40 percent of open supervisory and management positions.

After earning her doctorate at Penn State and completing a post-doc at the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, Donson began her corporate career with Unisys in 1984, where she designed and implemented a range of human factor programs. She moved to Mactel in Anchorage, Alaska, as vice president of administration to help launch Alaska's first telecommunications system.

Donson has twice won the Unisys Excellence Award, a President's Award, and has been recognized with the University of Alaska's Faculty Excellence Award. She is a member of the American Society for Training and Development, the Association for Quality and Participation, and the Society for HR Management.

Donson recently pledged a \$2.4 million estate gift to the Penn State College of Education—one of the largest gifts ever made to the college. The Paula M. Donson Graduate Scholarship for Innovation in Education aims to recognize and provide financial assistance to doctoral degree candidates who are pursuing unique contributions to the field of education.

A resident of Anchorage, Donson is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association.

