

2015 ALUMNI FELLOW

Wanda J. Blanchett '97 Edu

Wanda J. Blanchett is dean of the Graduate School of Education and distinguished professor at Rutgers University, which serves more than 1,500 post-baccalaureate, master's, doctoral, and non-degree students.

Blanchett was named dean at Rutgers in September 2014. Previously, she served as dean of the School of Education at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and, while there, established the Urban Education Research Center and founded the Executive Director/Sherman Family Endowed Chair. She also served as associate dean at the University of Colorado Denver and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and in both roles helped increase the focus and commitment to diversity issues, including urban education and the depth of community-university partnerships.

Blanchett has held several national and international leadership positions in academic and professional associations, including past chair of the American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education's (AACTE) Committee on Global Diversity and Inclusion faculty member with the AACTE Leadership Academy. She also served two terms as president/chair of the American Educational Research Association Research Focus on Black Education, Special Interest Group. Blanchett's research focuses on issues of educational inequity, including challenges surrounding the preparation of teachers who serve in urban settings; the disproportionate representation of students of color in special education; and issues of race, cultural, gender, and sexuality, particularly for students with disabilities. Blanchett is the lead co-editor of *Multiple Voices for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners*, the premier journal of the Division for Ethnically Diverse Exceptional Learners and the Council for Exceptional Children.

Blanchett's doctoral emphasis at Penn State was special education and sexuality education. She is a life member of the Penn State Alumni Association and lives in Somerset, NJ.

