Lynn Hardy Yeakel

Since 2002, Lynn Yeakel has been director of Drexel University College of Medicine’s Institute for Women’s Health and Leadership™ where she holds the Betty A. Cohen Chair in Women’s Health. Yeakel is the founder and co-chair with Rosemarie Greco of Vision 2020, a national initiative of the Institute to achieve women’s economic and social equality by the year 2020, the 100th anniversary of women’s voting rights. A coalition of more than 80 national organizations representing over 22 million people and delegates across the country, Vision 2020 launched in 2010 a national conversation about women and leadership to advance shared leadership among women and men.

Yeakel was a founder of Women’s Way, the first and largest women’s fundraising coalition in the nation, and served as its CEO from 1980 until 1992, when she ran for the U.S. Senate. She drew national attention in what was called the “Year of the Woman,” winning the primary and nearly unseating the longtime incumbent. In 1994, she was appointed by President Clinton to the position of mid-Atlantic regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Yeakel is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate and former trustee of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and received a Master of Science in Management degree from the American College. She has long been active in leadership positions for local and national non-profit organizations and is the recipient of numerous honors and awards for leadership and humanitarian contributions, including the Pennsylvania Citizen Action Award, the Lucretia Mott Award, and the Distinguished Daughters of Pennsylvania Award. Since 2010 she has been honored with the John Gardner Lifetime Achievement Award from Common Cause, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Red Cross, a leadership award from the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, and the Alice Paul Equality Award from the Alice Paul Institute.

Her first book, A Will and A Way (2010), presents insights into the key issues of women’s independence based on her own experience and lessons from history.