

Ellen Suzanne Fisher – Distinguished Service Award

Receiving the 2015 HES Distinguished Service Award is Dr. Ellen Fisher. She received her master's degree in Architectural Studies in 2008 and her PhD in 2011. She currently serves as Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the College at the New York School of Interior Design.

The New York School of Interior Design has a long and important legacy in the Interior Design profession, having been established in 1916 and Ellen is the first woman to have held these high ranking offices since the institution began. During her time in this role, she has many accomplishments, including launching an online program, implementing new degree offerings, invigorating the study abroad program and special programs for international visiting students.



However, one of Ellen's key achievements was the conception and implementation of the nation's first interdisciplinary graduate program in healthcare interior design, in which healthcare and design professionals collaborate. With her leadership, the recent ranking by *DesignIntelligence* magazine ranks her interior design program #1 among graduate programs and #3 in undergraduate education nationally...this is quite an accomplishment!

Ellen is a trailblazer in professional service and outreach activities and she plays a critical role in the leadership work of the Interior Design Educators Council, its Foundation and the Board of Directors for interior design legislation in New York. Ellen was an inaugural member of the Board of Directors of NYI I+, a group consisting of all accredited interior design programs in New York State, founded to support the licensing and profession of interior design. In 2013, she helped to bring the first Environmental Design research Association regional symposium to the New York School of Interior Design.

In the words of her nominator, "I appreciate Dr. Fisher's motivation, willingness to dig further, drive for professional development, stamina to tackle challenges, character as a leader and commitment to good ideas." Congratulations Ellen and thank you for all that you do!

