GLORIA W. WHITE
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

2010 – DONNA WILLIAMS
The 2010 recipient of the Gloria W. White Distinguished Service Award has been a steady, reliable force at the School of Engineering and Applied Science for 38 years.

Since Donna Williams arrived at Washington University in St. Louis in 1972, there have been many changes at the School of Engineering and Applied Science. Williams, business manager for Engineering Student Services, has worked under five deans and seen new departments and institutes founded, merged and renamed. In her current position, Williams serves as financial manager for Engineering Student Services, monitoring and ensuring office resources are used efficiently and productively.

Williams, who began her career as a secretary at the School of Engineering, also serves as adviser to the WUSTL student chapter of the National Society for Black Engineers, providing mentoring and leadership to the group and lending her time and talents to activities such as the Career Fair, the Pre-College Initiative, Confluence Academy Tutoring and TORCH Center Outreach.

Williams works with myriad engineering student groups at WUSTL – such as Engineers Without Borders, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the Society for Automotive Engineers, and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers – to help students apply for and manage funding.

A colleague wrote, “She has the ability to work well with people – all kinds of people, faculty, students and staff – of diverse backgrounds and temperaments. She goes out of her way to help people and has the ability to come up with answers to all kinds of inquiries. If you look at the major changes in the organizational entities within the School of Engineering that she has been involved in, it staggers the imagination. And through it all, she has been the steadying hand – the glue that held things together.”

Source: Record, June 8, 2010