



Elizabeth Bacon serves as the Coordinator for the Clemente Course in the Humanities, Worcester, MA, a program administered by the Worcester County Poetry Association, with major support from Mass Humanities, The George I. Alden Trust, the Greater Worcester Community Foundation, Anna Maria College, Clark University, Quinsigamond Community College, the Worcester Art Museum and Trinity Lutheran Church. The program removes barriers to higher education for low-income individuals in the Worcester area. It supports a diverse student body ranging from those without GEDs to new immigrants, opening new opportunities for themselves and their families.

Elizabeth engages many of Worcester's colleges, the faith community, nonprofits, government and artists in this effort. The Clemente Course in Worcester was cut in 2000 due to budget deficits. Working with local leaders, Elizabeth brought it back in 2014, providing the course completely free to students including books, laptops, childcare, transportation and meals. An accomplished educator, Elizabeth has taught elementary and middle school students for 30 years. She earned her Master of Arts in Teaching from Lesley University in 1979.

Elizabeth is the founding director of two extracurricular civics programs for Worcester students: The Blackstone Canal Horse and Wagon Tours, a youth leadership development program that taught high-school students to explore and present Worcester's rich history to visitors and residents alike and This is MyCity!, a civics education program for elementary students.

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, she served as Education Director for Preservation Worcester, developing The All-American City Tour, a third-grade field trip program, and Architecture in Movement in collaboration with Worcester Child Development Head Start. As Treasurer of the Board of Directors of Learning First Charter Public School, Elizabeth brought Neighborhood Strings to the school, providing students with violins, cellos, and other stringed instruments. As President, she guided the school towards the purchase and renovation of a new building.

Elizabeth currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of The Worcester County Poetry Association and a member of the National Council at McLean Hospital. Past involvements include membership on the Board of Directors of the Performing Arts School of Worcester, the Canal District Alliance and the Jane Fund of Central MA and co-founder of the Cedar Swamp Nature Trail and member and Chair of the Sutton School Committee.

She was recognized in 2017 by the YWCA of Central Massachusetts with the Erskine Award in Arts and Culture and was honored in 2018 by The Rep. John Binienda Center for Civic Engagement at Worcester State University with the Community Engagement Award for Meritorious Service.

Elizabeth and her husband of 42 years have been blessed with three children and two beautiful grandchildren. Together with their significant others, their children and grandchildren are their greatest joy. Elizabeth has been blessed to have known many Worcester children and their families over the past 44 years. She credits each and every one of them with bringing her the joy that makes life worth living.

Elizabeth earned a BA in Child Development from Connecticut College in 1978 where she was a housefellow and a three-sport athlete. Founder of the women's lacrosse program, she was elected to The Connecticut College Athletic Hall of Fame in 2011.

Elizabeth continues to swim against the tides of time and convention as she trains for the 2023 Boston Light Open Water Swim.