



**2019 NSEE Awards of Excellence**  
**Outstanding Leader in Experiential Education: Higher Education**



**Dr. Laura Anker**  
SUNY Old Westbury

Laura Anker is a Distinguished Service Professor of American Studies and Director of the First-Year Experience (FYE) and Community Action, Learning and Leadership (CALL) Programs at the State University of New York, College at Old Westbury. The CALL Program has earned Old Westbury a place on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll every year since its inception in 2007. Dr. Anker is co-editor, with Maureen Feder Marcus, of *The Ethics of Engagement: Educating Leaders for a Just World* (Copley Press, 2013) and has published peer-reviewed articles and presented papers at national and international conferences on the importance of civic engagement and community learning for retention, intercultural understanding, social activism and effective global citizenship. Dr. Anker was a representative from the Distinguished Academy on the SUNY Provost's Steering Committee for Applied Learning and serves on Old Westbury's Applied Learning Team. She received her Ph.D. with Distinction in History from SUNY Stony Brook; her M.A. in History from Brown University and her B.A. from Brandeis University. She is a recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

Recognized by a reviewer in the *Journal of Ethnic History* as "one of less than a dozen historians" who "transformed the study of immigration and ethnicity to include gender as an analytic concept," Dr. Anker's scholarship focuses on the role of women and family in the migration process, including *Women of Courage: Jewish and Italian Immigrant Women in New York*, with Rose Laub Coser, (Greenwood Press, 1999). She was the Project Director of the "Listening Project," a community study of Latino immigration to Long Island's East End and wrote the discussion guide for Study Circles on immigration, *Diversity on the East End: What Kind of Community Do You Want?* A community leader and frequent speaker on issues of education and immigration, Dr. Anker was elected to the East Hampton Union Free School District for seven terms, 21 years, and served both as its President and as Vice President. She currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Eleanor Whitmore Early Learning Center and Long Island Wins, an immigrant advocacy organization, as well on the Executive Committee of the East Hampton Group for Good Government (GGG).