The Association of Departments of English

presents

the Francis Andrew March Award

to

David Laurence

for Distinguished Service to the Profession of English Studies

Teacher, scholar, editor, author, organizer, and administrator—David Laurence has been an influential leader and savvy supporter of English studies his entire career. After teaching at Stony Brook University, Laurence joined the Modern Language Association staff in 1986 and served the profession under three MLA executive directors and thirty-two MLA presidents. As Director of English Programs and ADE he counseled, empowered, and equipped a generation of department leaders through the ADE Summer Seminars, his editorship of the ADE Bulletin, and his frank counsel to any chair who called in crisis. Laurence served on almost every MLA committee, task force, and working group convened to address the critical educational issues of our times—academic freedom, contingent labor, curriculum revision, the structure and financing of higher education, staffing, assessment, the English major—and he contributed a cogent hand to the drafting of their valuable statements and reports. He helped organize important national conferences on literacy, the English curriculum, and doctoral study in English; contributed to the influential work of the Commission on Writing and Literature, the English Coalition, and the Coalition on the Academic Workforce; and served as a consultant to the Humanities Indicators project of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Laurence recognized the critical importance of data and taught himself to be a humane man of both letters and numbers. As Director of Research, he gathered and analyzed the critical data humanists needed to defend and promote their programs in tumultuous times. He oversaw the MLA’s surveys of placement, hiring and staffing, foreign language enrollments, and the job market. He developed reports on trends in majors, PhD production and employment, and the changing balance of full- and part-time, tenure-track and non-tenure-track faculty appointments. He gave our profession the information it needed to understand and sustain itself in the rapidly changing economic and political conditions of higher education. We are all better off for his labor. The ADE Executive Committee is delighted to name David Laurence the recipient of the Francis Andrew March Award.

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