

THE MORRIS G. AND J. JOSEPHINE WARD FELLOWSHIP



The Morris G. and J. Josephine Ward Fellowship was established in June 2021 by Roberta Ward Walsh, PhD'89, in memory of her parents, to support PhD students studying aspects of economic and racial equity at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management.

Roberta's parents encountered barriers to workforce participation prevalent during the post-Depression era. This experience helped shape their values about economic opportunity and the importance of education that inspired Roberta's career path in government service and higher education.

As a Heller Alumni Board member, Roberta has given back to the Heller School in many ways. Now retired, she was previously a founding faculty member in public administration and departmental chairperson at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Prior to her FGCU appointment, she held middle management positions in federal government and was a tenured associate professor at the University of Vermont. Her undergraduate degree is from Framingham State University where she received the institution's Alumni Achievement Award in 1981 and Distinguished Alumni Award in 2019. She holds a master's degree in consumer economics with a minor in American Government from Cornell University. For her doctoral dissertation at the Heller School she conducted an inter-regional, inter-industry input-output analysis to estimate economic effects of energy savings in the federal Low-income Weatherization Assistance Program.