

# Prof./Dr. Susan R. Madsen

*Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership & Ethics  
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Professor Susan R. Madsen is the Orin R. Woodbury Professor of Leadership and Ethics in the Woodbury School of Business at Utah Valley University. She is also a Visiting Fellow of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb (Croatia) and a former Fellow of The Leadership Trust Foundation in Ross-on-Wye, England. Dr. Madsen has been heavily involved for decades in researching the lifetime development of prominent women leaders and has personally interviewed a host of women university presidents, U.S. governors, and international leaders. She also studies other aspects of women and leadership more broadly. Overall, Dr. Madsen is considered one of the top global thought leaders on the topic of women and leadership, has authored or edited six books, and has published hundreds of articles, chapters, and reports. She was also the lead series co-editor for the Women and Leadership Book Series with Information Age Publishing and co-edited the first three volumes: *Women and Leadership in Higher Education* (2014), *Women as Global Leaders* (2015), and *Women and Leadership around the World* (2015). Her latest book, *The Handbook of Research on Gender and Leadership* (Edward Elgar Publishing, 2017) is known as a seminal work on women and leadership worldwide. In 2012, she was the editor of two special issues of the journal *Advances in Developing Human Resources* (ADHR) on the topic of women and leadership in higher education.

Dr. Madsen is a sought-after speaker in local, national, and international settings. She has presented in NGO sessions at the United Nations (New York and Geneva) and has also presented in such places as the *New York Times*, the Argentina Parliament Palace, the House of Commons in England, The U.S. State Department, USAID, and in many countries around the world. In addition to a host of speaking engagements in Utah and the U.S., Dr. Madsen has given keynotes and/or presentations in Argentina, South Africa, Slovenia, India, China, Korea, Croatia, Austria, England, Estonia, the Czech Republic, Australia, South Africa, Costa Rica, New Zealand, Canada, Norway, Switzerland, France, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates. In past years she has conducted research in China, the Middle East, and Eastern Europe and has facilitated women's leadership development programs and seminars with women leaders from over 40 countries.

Susan thrives on being a change agent in her own state of Utah. In 2009, she created the Utah Women and Education Initiative and led a research team and over 100 individuals to investigate what might be done to get more Utah women to attend college and then graduate. In 2011-2012, she worked with the Utah governor and his staff to create the Utah Women's College Taskforce that resulted in a report to the state calling for change. She has worked tirelessly to increase awareness and generate resources that will help convince more Utah women to graduate from college. She continues to direct this Initiative today. Dr. Madsen also founded the Utah

Women in Higher Education Network (UWHEN) in 2010 and just recently was provided a special honor as she moved off the board in early 2019.

In 2013, Dr. Madsen also created the Utah Women & Leadership Project, which is focused on strengthening the impact of Utah girls and women through encouraging, developing, and advancing women in leadership. As part of that work, she has overseen the production and release of public research (accessible to the general population as well as policy makers, educators, and other stakeholders) including 20 research and policy briefs, 27 research snapshots on a variety of issues, 7 “What Can I Do? Information Sheets, and 7 impact reports assessing the current status of women in Utah in key areas and making recommendations for social change. The UWLP also hosts or co-sponsors 20-30 events annually, each focused on engaging and instructing girls and women in a variety of ways and on numerous subjects, all with the end goal of inspiring and encouraging enhanced educational goals and leadership aspirations. These events are attended by many thousands each year via events, research, press coverage, social media, and listserv contacts, Dr. Madsen’s efforts reach and influence an estimated 25,000 individuals in Utah annually. She also serves on other Utah nonprofit and community boards, including Envision Utah, Silicon Slopes, Real Women Run, United Way of Utah County, People Helping People, Better Days 2020, Utah Financial Empowerment Coalition, Junior League of Salt Lake. She has also been an advisor or trainer on women’s leadership to national organizations and associations like the American Council on Education, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American Association of University Women, and others.

Susan founded the International Leadership Association’s (ILA) Women and Leadership Affinity Group and the Academy of Human Resource Development’s Leadership Special Interest Group. In 2013 and 2015 she chaired a global women and leadership conference for the ILA, which led to the publication of a seminal document that she compiled titled, “The Asilomar Declaration & Call to Action on Women and Leadership.” In May 2014 she also organized and hosted a colloquium for 70 scholars from around the world, titled “Advancing Theories of Women and Leadership,” and Susan and Dr. Julia Storberg-Walker continued to coordinate efforts and events to inspire and influence more scholars to develop rigorous women and leadership theory for over five years. She and colleagues are also leading discussions globally to helping more women’s leadership scholars understand and get involved with public policy.

Widely recognized for her work, Susan has most recently received the following awards and recognitions: Utah Women in Higher Education Network’s 2018 Distinguished Service Award; Envision Utah’s 2017 Common Good Award; the Laura Bierema Excellence in Critical HRD Award 2017 from the Academy of Human Resource Development; the 2017 Influential Women in her 50s by the Utah Valley Magazine; 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award, College of Education and Human Development at the University of Minnesota; 2016 YWCA Utah Outstanding Achievement Award in Education; Community Legacy Impact Award from People Helping People; 2016 “Distinguished Woman of the Year” by the Wasatch Chapter of AAUW; 2016 honoree of the Sundance Film Festival’s Utah Women’s Leadership Celebration; the 2014 “Women and Leadership Scholar of the Year” for the International Leadership Association; one of the 2014 Fabulous Forty in Utah Valley Magazine; one of the 2013 “30 Women to Watch” in Utah Business Magazine, and is a 2012 Salt Lake Chamber PathFinder Awardee. In 2007, she also received the prestigious Early Career Scholar Award from the Academy of Human Resource Development. Her commitment and work with service and engaged learning at the local level led to her selection in past years as Utah Valley University’s “Civic Engaged Scholar of the Year” and “Outstanding Civic Engagement Award” by Utah Campus Compact. She also received the 2006 and 2015 Scholar of the Year Award for the Woodbury School of Business.

Dr. Madsen received her doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota in Work, Community, and Family Education with a specialization in human resource development. She has other degrees in exercise science/wellness and speech communication education and started her career many years ago as a middle school speech and debate teacher. Susan and her husband Greg have four young adult children (and two grandchildren), and she enjoys racquetball, snowshoeing, golf, hiking, and traveling.