



## Dr. Margee Ensign



Dr. Margee Ensign is president of the American University of Nigeria (AUN), located in Yola, Adamawa, one of the three northeastern Nigerian states still under a state of emergency. She also leads the Adamawa Peace Initiative (API), a local Yola-based response to the escalating violence, which has successfully promoted peace in the area through education, empowerment and community development. Under Dr. Ensign, API is also currently undertaking humanitarian relief work in the region. Dr. Ensign has been internationally recognized for her pioneering work at AUN, including the 2011 African Leadership Award in Educational Excellence, granted by London-based African Leadership Magazine.

Dr. Ensign has worked in and on the continent for fifteen years and has served as an advisor to the governments of Uganda and Rwanda. She is a widely published scholar whose work focuses primarily on the challenges of international development, as well as on the implications of development assistance. She co-authored *Rwanda: History and Hope*, a book in which she and AUN Trustee and Tulane University Professor Dr. William Bertrand document Rwanda's rebuilding efforts since 1994. She is also co-editor of *Confronting Genocide in Rwanda* and author of *Doing Good or Doing Well? Japan's Foreign Aid Program* and *Images and Behavior of Private Bank Lending to Developing Countries*.

The third President of AUN, Dr. Ensign earned her B.A. from New College in Florida, and her PhD in International Political Economy from the University of Maryland. She began her academic and administrative career at Columbia University in New York City. There she combined roles of Professor of Politics and Economics with Director of the International Political Economy Program.

From Columbia, she became Director of USAID's Development Studies Program at Tulane University and a Professor at Tulane's International Development Program, offering advanced programs at the Master's and PhD levels in International Development. She has also taught as Visiting Professor at both Georgetown and American Universities, in Washington, D.C.

Prior to AUN, Dr. Ensign served as Dean of the School of International Studies and Associate Provost for International Initiatives at the University of the Pacific in California. At Pacific, she set up undergraduate and graduate programs in social entrepreneurship, Inter-American Studies, and intercultural relations. She also established the Gerber Lecture Series that attracted such globally renowned speakers as Archbishop (emeritus) Desmond Tutu of South Africa, President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, Vice-President Gilbert Bukenya of Uganda, President César Gaviria of Colombia, and Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland of Norway.