

Citation for Donna Shalala

Throughout her life Donna Shalala has succeeded in an extraordinary range of posts, proving herself in both the academic and public spheres. She has transformed universities and, in her government posts, has sought to improve the lives of millions, particularly targeting underserved communities in the United States and around the world.

An accomplished scholar, Shalala has taught at seven universities across the United States, and presided over three of these. She received wholehearted acclaim while chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was lauded as “one of the best managers in higher education.” In each of these demanding positions, her leadership has added creatively to improvements in academic programs and student life. During her current presidency at the University of Miami she has seen the institution vault significantly in its ranking among American research universities. Donna Shalala has also succeeded in making a significant national impact with her positions in the United States government, where she worked diligently to advance public health and to safeguard the needs of women, children, the elderly, and the poor. She has greatly contributed to the prominence of Arab Americans in holding many high-level posts, including serving as the first Arab-American cabinet member in the history of the U.S. government. At the end of her record-breaking tenure as Secretary of Health and Human Services, the *Washington Post* described her as “one of the most successful government managers of modern times.”

Shalala serves on numerous boards and councils and has garnered many awards and honors, including more than four dozen honorary degrees, as well as America’s highest civilian honor, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.