

Nancy Hale

President and CEO, Operation UNITE



Following 34 years as a teacher, career counselor, and administrative coordinator, Nancy Hale retired from public education in 2012 and joined Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment and Education) as Co-Program Director for the UNITE Service Corps (AmeriCorps) Program. In February 2015, she was named UNITE's third President and CEO.

Ms. Hale currently serves on the advisory boards for the Rx Drug Abuse & Heroin Summit and National Recovery Month Planning Partners. In addition, she is a member of the Appalachian Regional Commission's Substance Abuse Advisory Council and the Southeast Kentucky Advisory Council for Volunteers of America. Very involved in her community, Ms. Hale has served as an Executive Board Member and volunteer with the Rockcastle County (KY) UNITE Coalition for the last 16 years and volunteered for 28 years with the Kentucky YMCA Youth Association.

As a member of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Pi Chapter, Ms. Hale was named "Kentucky Volunteer of the Year" four times (1998, 1999, 2000 and 2004). She received the "Golden Apple Achiever Award" from Ashland Oil, Inc. in 2000 as one of Kentucky's outstanding educators. In 2001, she was chosen as the "Kentucky YMCA Champion," and was the first inductee into the Kentucky YMCA Youth Advisor Hall of Fame in 2010. Ms. Hale twice served as President of the Kentucky Association of Professional Educators.

Ms. Hale was graduated from Eastern Kentucky University in 1978 with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She later completed her Master of Arts in Education and earned her Rank 1 in Administration, also from ECU.

She and her husband, John, also an educator and a principal for 49 years, are the parents of two grown sons, one of whom is in long-term recovery from the chronic disease of addiction, and they have four grandchildren.