



Bio for Dr. Sylvia M. James

Dr. Sylvia M. James is the Director of the Division of Human Resource Development (HRD) in the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR). As Division Director, she oversees a \$129 million budget and a talented team of 25 scientific and administrative staff. The mission of HRD, as exemplified by its seven longstanding programs, is to contribute to the creation of "...a well-prepared and competitive workforce of scientists, technicians, engineers, mathematicians, and educators that reflects the diversity of the U.S. population."

During her 14 year tenure at NSF, she has served as the Acting Division Director of the Division of Human Resource Development, Acting Director and Deputy Division Director of the Division of Research on Learning in Formal and Informal Settings (DRL), and the Lifelong Learning Cluster Coordinator. As Cluster Coordinator, she managed the Informal Science Education Program (ISE) which had a budget of \$64 million dollars, while also providing direction for the Innovative Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST) program. She has served as a program officer for the ISE, ITEST, Faculty Early Career (CAREER), and the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) programs. She also worked with the Innovation through Institutional Integration (I³) and Academies for Young Scientists (AYS) programs. Dr. James previously served as the Lead Program Officer for ITEST, and its predecessor, the After School Centers for Exploration and New Discovery (ASCEND).

Prior to coming to NSF, she was the Director of Education at the National Aquarium in Baltimore where she was employed for 14 years. While at the National Aquarium, she directed teacher training and youth enrichment projects supported by national funders such as the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, DeWitt Wallace Readers Digest Fund, and the National Science Foundation, as well as an assortment of local foundations. She has served as an education consultant for science education radio, youth publications, and museums and an adjunct science faculty member at Sojourner-Douglass College in Baltimore. Dr. James is the author of seven children's books on marine animals, in addition to science education publications and reports. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Loyola University, a Master of Science degree from the Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctorate in Science Education from Morgan State University, all located in Baltimore, Maryland.