

Eva J. Pell

Under Secretary for Science

Eva J. Pell, Under Secretary for Science, joined the Smithsonian Institution in January 2010. She oversees the operations of the National Museum of Natural History; the National Air and Space Museum; the National Zoo and its Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Va.; the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Mass.; the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater, Md.; the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute in Suitland, Md.; and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama.

Dr. Pell earned a B.S. in biology from City College of the City University of New York in 1968, and a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from Rutgers University in 1972. In 1973, Dr. Pell was appointed as an Assistant Professor of Plant Pathology at the Pennsylvania State University. There she rose through the ranks and was named Distinguished Professor of Plant Pathology in 1991, and in 1995 was named the John and Nancy Steimer Professor of Agricultural Sciences. Dr. Pell's research focused on the impact of air pollutants on vegetation and her research spanned from the molecular to the ecophysiological. In recognition of leadership in her field in 2003, Dr. Pell was elected as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In January 2000, Dr. Pell was appointed Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School at Penn State University and on May 12, 2006, the Board of Trustees approved the recommendation for her title change to Senior Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, a position she held until December 31, 2009. In her years as senior research officer and graduate dean, Dr. Pell served on numerous national committees and organizations. Dr. Pell was the 2003-2004 President of the American Association of Universities' Association of Graduate Schools and was chair of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' Council of Research Policy and Graduate Education from 2004-2005.