

Distinguished Service Citation



The Distinguished Service Citation is given to an ecologist for long and distinguished service to the Society, to the larger scientific community, or to the larger purpose of application of ecology in the public welfare.

This year's recipient is Professor and Dean **Rosina Bierbaum** of the University of Michigan for her enormous contributions to that last criterion, the "application of ecology in the public welfare."

Since the beginning of her career, Dr. Bierbaum has worked in the public arena on issues involving the application of ecology to significant societal problems. Her service has included stints in the congressional Office for Technology Assessment and in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, including as director of the Environment Division at OSTP from 1998-2001, where she acted as the Clinton administration's senior scientific advisor on environmental research and development. Her list of specific contributions is enormous and only a few of them are highlighted here. She has been closely involved in the IPCC's assessment reports and led the US delegation to several of the IPCC plenaries. In 2007, she was co-author of the report "Confronting Climate Change: Avoiding the Unmanageable and Managing the Unavoidable" prepared at the request of the Commission on Sustainable Development. In 2008-9, she was the co-director of the World Bank's formal report on the intersection of climate change and economic development. The report was released last year and signaled a strong shift towards endorsing a CO₂ target and the recognition of the incompatibility of development and unabated climate change. And most recently, she was appointed by President Obama to the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

In all of these roles, Dr. Bierbaum has been an effective advocate for the application of sound ecological science to a wide range of problems, from acid rain and energy development to climate change impacts and adaptive strategies, and been such an advocate in the halls of power where critical decisions are made that influence us all.