

Elizabeth L. Ambos, Ph.D. – Nominee for Associate Director, Area Groups, Industry, State and Federal Laboratories (AGISFL) Constituency



Biographical Summary: Currently a consultant on higher education change and capacity-building issues, Dr. Elizabeth (Beth) Ambos became the Council on Undergraduate Research's (CUR's) fourth Executive Officer in May 2012, retiring in August 2019, after a career in higher education that always included an emphasis on undergraduate research. From 2006-2012, immediately prior to becoming CUR's Executive Officer, Beth Ambos served as the founding Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research Initiatives and Partnerships for the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system, the largest baccalaureate degree granting institution in the United States. During her tenure at the CSU system office, she played key roles in garnering research infrastructure support and initiating system-wide research affinity groups and undergraduate research efforts. Before her appointment at the CSU system level, Ambos held several administrative appointments at California State

University, Long Beach (CSULB), including Associate Vice President for Research and External Support, Graduate Dean, and Associate Dean in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. She was also a tenured full professor in CSULB's Department of Geological Sciences. She has helped obtain and/or manage more than \$60M in grant and contract funds, has edited two books, published more than 40 peer-reviewed papers, and made over 160 professional presentations. Her research interests have spanned geophysical investigations of crustal and upper mantle structures, geophysical archaeology, STEM student success through undergraduate research, STEM teacher preparation, and higher education cultural and curricular theories of change. She received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in marine geology and geophysics, followed by post-doctoral appointments at the United States Geological Survey (National Research Council fellow) and University of Southern California. She was a NASA-ASEE summer faculty fellow at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for two years and served 1.5 years as an NSF program officer through an intergovernmental personnel act appointment.

Activities with Sigma Xi and other organizations: Currently Associate Director for the AGISFL constituency, Dr. Ambos previously served two three-year terms as a Director-at-Large for Sigma Xi. Also, she has been a member of the audit and lecture committees and has frequently served as a reviewer and/or judge at Sigma Xi's student research events. Organizations within which she has played an active role include the Accelerating Systemic Change Network (ASCN) (<https://ascnhighered.org/index.html>), the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) (<https://coenet.org/>), Advancing Research Impacts in Society (ARIS) (<https://researchinsociety.org/>), and Professional Science Masters' Programs

(<https://professionalsciencemasters.org/>), among others. Over the last three decades she has designed and implemented more than 90 professional development events for higher education faculty and administrators, on topics spanning scholarly writing, undergraduate research, research compliance, and grant proposal preparation. She helped manage academic research compliance functions at two academic institutions, building her expertise in human subjects' protocols, research integrity, and ethics. In addition, Dr. Ambos has participated in and led a variety of undergraduate research-related programs, including summer intensive research experiences in geosciences (geology, geography, and archaeology), and collaborative endeavors with CUR (Council on Undergraduate Research), and the Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR).