

New Webinar Series

Conversations with GSA's Bromery Awardees

**Featuring Dr. Dawn J. Wright, Chief Scientist, Environmental Systems Research Institute
Friday, 26 February 2021, 12–1 p.m. MST**

[Register](#)

This series of conversations with scientists will feature past awardees of the Geological Society of America's Randolph W. "Bill" and Cecile T. Bromery Award for Minorities. This award was established 1999 to recognize geoscientists of color who have made significant contributions to the sciences, or who have been instrumental in opening the geoscience field to other geoscientists of color. The first webinar in this series will honor Black History Month with an interview of Dr. Dawn Wright, Chief Scientist at Esri. Dr. Wright will discuss her career, current research, and answer your questions about the field.

About Dr. Dawn J. Wright



After 17 years as a professor of geography and oceanography at Oregon State University, Wright was appointed Chief Scientist of the Environmental Systems Research Institute (aka "Esri"), a world-leading geographic information system (GIS) software, services, and R&D company in October 2011. As chief scientist at Esri, Wright works directly with the CEO on strengthening the scientific foundation for Esri software and services, while also representing Esri to the national/international scientific community. She maintains an affiliated faculty appointment within the College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences at Oregon State University.

Wright has authored or co-authored more than 180 articles and 12 books on geographic information science, as well as deep ocean mapping and conservation. She has participated in more than 20 oceanographic research expeditions throughout the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, and Southern Oceans. In 1991 she became the first African-American woman to dive to the deep ocean floor in a deep submersible (2,500 m to the crest of the East Pacific Rise).

Wright's recent advisory board service includes the Science Advisory Boards of NOAA, the EPA, and the Ocean Discovery XPRIZE competition; the Science Advisory Council of Conservation International; the National Academy of Sciences Ocean Studies Board; the Science Advisory Board of COMPASS Science Communication Inc.; the EO Wilson Biodiversity Foundation; and many journal editorial boards.

Wright is an elected lifelong Fellow of:

- the American Association for the Advancement of Science;
- the Geological Society of America;
- the California Academy of Sciences;
- the Association of American Geographers;
- the Oceanography Society;
- Stanford University's Leopold Leadership Program; and
- the Explorers Club.

Other awards and honors include:

- the 2020 George Davidson Medal for Pacific Ocean Exploration and Research;
- the 2019 Geosciences Innovator Award, Texas A&M University;
- the 2018 H. Burr Steinbach Scholar of MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (as chosen by their graduate students);
- the 2017 Roger Revelle Commemorative Lecture Award and the 2018 Gilbert White Distinguished Lecture Award both by the National Academy of Sciences;
- the 2015 Randolph W. and Cecile T. Bromery Award for Minorities;

- a National Science Foundation Early Career Award;
- a Fulbright to Ireland;
- the OSU Milton Harris Award for Excellence in Basic Research; and
- in 2007 she was named Oregon Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

Wright holds an Individual Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Physical Geography and Marine Geology from the University of California, Santa Barbara, an M.S. in Oceanography from Texas A&M, and a B.S. cum laude in Geology from Wheaton College (Illinois).

Other interests include road cycling, mountain biking, apricot green-tea gummy bears, 18th-century pirates, her puppy [Riley](#), and SpongeBob Squarepants. Follow her on Twitter [@deepseadawn](#).

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