The U.S. National Science Foundation welcomes Dr. Rosalyn (Roz) Hobson Hargraves, as the new division director for the Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE). Hargraves is a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University and previously served as an intermittent expert for NSF’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources. She began her term as NSF division director for DUE on August 1, 2021.

“Rosalyn Hargraves is an inspiring leader whose career journey and research passion have prepared her well to address the undergraduate STEM education research and development challenges faced by the Nation,” said Sylvia Butterfield, acting assistant director for EHR. “Dr. Hargraves’ deep experience as a scholar and academic administrator will help NSF advance its commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the undergraduate STEM education enterprise; inspire faculty innovation in creating effective curricular and co-curricular supports; and promote expanded pathways into STEM learning for all students.”

Beyond STEM education, Hargraves’ research interests also include diversity, equity, and inclusion in higher education, machine learning, biomedical signal and image processing, and the role of science and technology in international development. Hargraves received her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate degrees in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia. During her 25 years at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), Hargraves co-founded the VCU School of Engineering Department of Electrical Engineering, and has served in numerous leadership roles, including associate vice president for inclusive excellence, the director of the Virginia Commonwealth University - University of KwaZulu Natal International Partnership, associate dean in the College of Engineering, and interim co-chair in the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Hargraves has been recognized nationally for her mentoring, teaching, leadership, and diversity initiatives. From 2019-2020 she was one of 38 academic leaders selected for the nationally renowned American Council on Education (ACE) Fellowship, the premier comprehensive leadership development program in American higher education. In 2003-2004 she served as an American Association for the
Advancement of Science Diplomacy Fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development (2003-2004). Among her numerous awards, she received the 2018 National Association for Ethnic Studies Robert L. Perry Mentoring Award, and in 2006 Hargraves was named Engineer of the Year by the Richmond Joint Engineers Council.

“DUE is absolutely thrilled to welcome Dr. Hargraves to the leadership team,” said Butterfield. The Division of Undergraduate Education, in EHR, invests in STEM education at two- and four-year colleges and universities by improving curricula, instruction, laboratories, infrastructure, assessment, diversity of students and faculty, and collaborations.