

AAAC BIO – Debra Elmegreen

Dr. Debra Elmegreen is the Maria Mitchell Professor of Astronomy in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She received her Ph.D. in Astronomy from Harvard University in 1979 on an Amelia Earhart fellowship and was a Carnegie Postdoctoral Fellow in Pasadena. Her research interests include structure, interactions, and star formation in galaxies in the local universe and at high redshift; she observes in optical, near-infrared, and radio wavelengths. Dr. Elmegreen is President of the American Astronomical Society and has served on the AAS Council from 1999-2002 and on several AAS committees including the Astronomy Education Board (1999-2002), the USNC-IAU Board (1999-2002 and 2010-present), the Committee on Astronomy and Public Policy (2009-present), and the Warner and Pierce Prize Committee (2005-07, chair 2006-07). She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She is a member of the NRC Board of Physics and Astronomy (2010-present) and was a member of the Astronomy and Astrophysics Survey Committee (Astro2010). She was on the NRC Panel for Postdoctoral Fellowships (1996-98). She served on the NSF External Review Committee for the CTIO Small and Moderate Aperture Research Telescope System (SMARTS; 2003), the NSF Program Review Panel for NOAO (2002-2004), and the NSF Waterman Prize Committee (2006-2009). She has served on the Hubble Space Telescope Allocation Committee (1992, 1998, 2002) and HST Users Committee (1998-2001, chair 2002-05), in addition to the Spitzer Space Telescope Allocation Committee (2004; IPAC ADP 1993) and SST Postdoctoral fellowship committee (2006-2008, chair 2008). She has also served on the National Optical Astronomy Observatory Systems Committee on Optical/Infrared Astronomy (2003-2004), the NOAO Survey Telescope Allocation Committee (2008), the National Radio Astronomy Observatory Users Committee (1993-97), and the NRAO Telescope Allocation Committee (2002-04). She has served on several scientific organizing committees, including most recently the Conference on Women in Astronomy, Caltech 2003; Penetrating Bars through Masks of Cosmic Dust: The Hubble Tuning Fork strikes a New Note, South Africa, 2004; Spitzer Conference: The Evolving Interstellar Medium in the Milky Way and Nearby Galaxies, Pasadena, 2007; and Galaxy Wars: Stellar Populations and Star Formation in Interacting Galaxies Conference, Tennessee, 2009.