

UNIVERSITY OF RHODE ISLAND
Department of Chemistry

SEMINAR

Room 234 Pastore Hall
3:00 P.M., Monday, Dec. 11, 2017

Prof. Laura Pence

Department of Chemistry
University of Hartford
West Hartford, CT

***"Activism and Advocacy at
The Intersection of Science and Policy"***

HOST

Mindy Levine
Department of Chemistry
401-874-4243

Activism and Advocacy at the Intersection of Science and Policy
Department of Chemistry, University of Rhode Island
December 11, 2017

Abstract

Since the end of WWII, science has enjoyed a privileged position in the American government as an important economic driver and as a respected contributor to policy decisions. We are currently living through a time when political conventions are being challenged and the role of science on the national stage is being re-examined. In this talk, we will explore the current policy climate as well as the opportunities and responsibilities for scientists to engage in advocacy and activism.

Biography

In 2016, Dr. Laura Pence was elected to the American Chemical Society Board of Directors from District I, encompassing all of New England and New York State. She spends her day job as a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Hartford with expertise in environmental chemistry, inorganic chemistry, and chemical education. In 2012-2013 Dr. Pence spent a year as an ACS/American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Congressional Science Policy Fellow in the office of Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO), where her policy portfolio featured natural resources, energy, and environmental issues, with a particular emphasis in the areas of water and forestry. Since then she has continued to explore the nexus of science and public policy, and is currently on the planning committee for a state level science policy fellowship program in Connecticut. Dr. Pence is an outstanding educator, winning the University of Hartford's Roy E. Larsen award for Excellence in Teaching in 2006 and ranking among the top 25 professors nationally in RateMyProfessor.com's 2014 survey. Prof. Pence received her B.S. in chemistry from Lebanon Valley College and her Ph.D. from Michigan State University. Subsequently, she was a National Institutes of Health Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She was named a Fellow of the American Chemical Society in 2011 for her programming and leadership on environmental and sustainability issues.