

Susan Avery



Susan Avery took office as the ninth President and Director of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in February 2008. She is the first woman to hold the position in the institution's 79-year history. As an oceanographic leader with a background in atmospheric research, Avery has used her unique position to underscore the importance of ocean-atmosphere-terrestrial interactions in understanding Earth as a whole system. She was previously at the University of Colorado at Boulder (UCB), where she was a member of the faculty, and served in interim positions as vice chancellor for research and dean of the graduate school, as well as provost and executive vice chancellor for academic affairs.

From 1994-2004, she served as director of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), the first woman and first engineer to hold that position. As Director of CIRES Dr. Avery facilitated interdisciplinary research efforts spanning the geosciences and bringing them together with social and biological sciences. Avery earned her Ph.D. in atmospheric science from the University of Illinois in 1978.

Avery's research includes studies of atmospheric circulation and precipitation, climate variability and water resources, and the development of new radar techniques and instruments for remote sensing. She has served on numerous advisory panels, committees, and councils for the National Science Foundation, the National Research Council, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Center for Atmospheric Research, and various international science programs.