

## **National Science Foundation Director Rita Colwell to speak at San Diego Science and Technology Council event**

**October 26, 1999**

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION DIRECTOR RITA COLWELL TO SPEAK AT SAN DIEGO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL EVENT

### MEDIA ADVISORY

Event: Rita Colwell, director of the National Science Foundation, will discuss "Expanding Frontiers of Knowledge" during an event sponsored by the San Diego Science and Technology Council and The Scripps Research Institute Society of Fellows.

Time/Date: 5 p.m., Friday, October 29, 1999

Location: Valerie Timken Amphitheater

Scripps Green Hospital, 10666 N. Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla

Background: The National Science Foundation is the government's primary agency for research and education in science, mathematics, engineering and technology. Colwell is focusing the agency's efforts on biocomplexity, information technology and education.

Immediately prior to becoming NSF Director in August 1998, Colwell was President of the University of Maryland Biotechnology Institute and Professor of Microbiology at the University of Maryland, positions she had held since 1991 and 1972, respectively.

A member of the National Science Board from 1984 to 1990, Colwell has held numerous advisory positions in the U.S. Government, private foundations and elsewhere. She is a nationally respected scientist and educator and has authored or co-authored 16 books and more than 500 scientific publications.

Colwell has received numerous awards, including the Medal of Distinction from Columbia University and the Andrew White Medal from Loyola College. She has also been awarded nine honorary degrees from institutions of higher education and has held several honorary professorships, including the University of Queensland, Australia.

Born in Beverly, Massachusetts, Colwell holds a B.S. in Bacteriology and an M.S. in Genetics, from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. in Marine Microbiology from the University of Washington.

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