

DR. KATHRYN E. UHRICH



Dr. Kathryn E. Uhrich is a Distinguished Professor who serves as Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) at the University of California, Riverside. As Dean, she oversees a research and teaching enterprise comprising nearly 1000 faculty, staff and researchers as well as more than 8,000 undergraduate and graduate students in 13 academic departments and 15 research centers and institutes. The College has two agricultural fields stations on more than 1,000 acres in addition to ~28,000 acres of Natural Reserve System sites and ~40 acres of Botanic Gardens. CNAS is the only college in the ten-campus University of California (UC) System where the science departments coexist in one organization – agricultural sciences, life sciences, mathematics, physical sciences, and statistics.

Previously, she served as Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Serving more than 300 faculty in six departments, she developed programs to increase research and teaching collaborations between departments and colleges in the university. Under her leadership, support for research funding and assistance with applications for extramural funding increased along with university investments in new approaches to teaching science.

As a first-generation college graduate, Uhrich earned her Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Cornell University, and her B.S. in chemistry, with honors, from the University of North Dakota. Following her PhD studies, she was a postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and worked at AT&T Bell Laboratories. Uhrich began her academic career at Rutgers University, where she attained full professor and was Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

In her work at UC Riverside and Rutgers, Uhrich has championed enhanced STEM education for women and people of color. As a researcher, Uhrich's interest in mentoring the next generation of scientists is reflected by the composition and size of her research team: she has supervised more than 60 Ph.D. students and 90 undergraduate students – the majority from underrepresented groups.

She is Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Bioactive and Compatible Polymers*, an international journal that advances biomedical polymer research. Uhrich's scholarly and entrepreneurial achievements are highlighted by her election as Fellow into several prestigious organizations - the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society and its Polymer Division, the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, the Controlled Release Society, and the National Academy of Inventors of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Uhrich's research links chemistry with the life sciences and engineering disciplines to create bioactive, biodegradable polymers and devices for use in drug delivery, food safety and personal care. Her accomplishments in this research area are evidenced by the steady rate of publications, patents, and presentations. Overall, Uhrich has published ~190 peer-reviewed articles, given over ~350 invited keynotes/presentations to disseminate research results world-wide, and garnered ~\$33M in funding from government grants and industrial contracts. She has more than 60 issued U.S. and international patents, and her work has spawned several start-up companies, including Polymerix Corporation, which created biodegradable delivery systems for nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs and coatings for surgical implants. She has collaborated extensively with colleagues in the U.S. and overseas, and worked in close partnership with companies such as BASF, Chanel, DuPont, ExxonMobil, Johnson & Johnson, and Merck.