

Persis S. Drell

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PRESENT

Provost Emerita, Stanford University
James and Anna Marie Spilker Professor, Stanford University
Professor of Materials, Science and Engineering, Stanford University
Professor of Physics, Stanford University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Physics, University of California Berkeley 1983
A.B. Math/Physics, Wellesley College with Honors, Durant Scholar 1977

EXPERIENCE

Professor, Stanford University 2002 – Present
Provost, Stanford University Feb 2017– Sept 2023
Acting Stanford Vice President, SLAC 2023-2024; 2019-2022
Dean, School of Engineering, Stanford University Sept 2014 – Jan 2017
Director, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory Dec 2007 – Oct 2012
Acting Director, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory Sept 2007– Dec 2007
Deputy Director, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory 2005–2007
Associate Director, Particle & Particle Astrophysics, SLAC 2005–2007
Deputy Project Manager, Gamma Ray Large Area Space Telescope 2004–2005
Associate Director, Research Division, SLAC 2002–2005
Deputy Director, Cornell Laboratory of Nuclear Studies 2001–2002
Professor of Physics, Cornell University 1998–2002
Associate Professor of Physics, Cornell University 1993–1997
Assistant Professor of Physics, Cornell University 1988–1992
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Lawrence Berkeley Lab 1983–1987

SERVICE

NAS Committee on International Security and Arms Control 2024– Present
Chair (2025 – Present)
Board of Directors, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation 2017– Present
Board of Directors, Nvidia Corporation 2015– 2026
Chair, Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee Member (BESAC) 2017– 2018
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DESY Scientific Council 2012– 2017
Chair (2014 – 2017)
Chair, LCLS Operations Strategy Task Force 2013
Space Telescope Science Institute Visiting Committee 2013–2014
Co-Chair, Secretary of Energy Advisory Board (SEAB) 2013–2014
BESAC Light Source Subpanel 2013
Stanford University Board of Trustees, Land & Buildings Committee (LBRE) 2013–2014
Task Force, Advancing the Culture of Laboratory Safety at Stanford 2013–2014
INFN Evaluation Committee (CVI) 2010–2014
Chair (2012 – 2014)
Graduate Fellowships Faculty Advisory Committee (GFFAC) 2011–2014
MIT Physics Visiting Committee 2008–2014
Fermi Research Alliance Board 2006–2007
Caltech Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy Visiting Committee 2006–2007

Chair, Physics Department Review Committee, Yale University	2006
Particle Data Group Advisory Committee	2002–2005
Chair, “Quantum Universe” Subcommittee, High Energy Physics Advisory Panel	2004
“Elementary Particle Physics” Review Panel, Helmholtz Gemeinschaft	2003–2004
Planning and Policy Board, Stanford University	2002–2004
Chair, Committee of Visitors, Physics Division NSF	2003
COSEPUP/BPA Committee on Setting Priorities for NSF-Sponsored Large Research Facilities, National Academy of Sciences	2003
Cornell CLEO Detector Group Leader	2000–2002
Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Physics	1999–2002
Chair, Synchrotron Radiation Committee, Cornell University	1999–2002
“The Science Ahead, The Way to Discovery” High Energy Physics Advisory Panel long range plan for U.S. high-energy physics in the 21 st century	2002
SLAC Scientific Policy Committee, Chair 2000 – 2001)	1997–2002
Dean’s Advisory Council, Cornell University	1998–2001
Local Advisory Council (to Vice Provost for Research), Cornell University Chair (1999-2000)	1998–2001
Search Committee for FNAL Director, University Research Association	1998
Committee on Elementary Particle Physics, National Academy of Sciences	1995–1997
Working Group Coordinator "Strong Coupling," Snowmass Workshop, DPF Summer Study	1996
Dean Search Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University	1996
Associate Editor, <i>Reviews of Modern Physics</i>	1994–1996
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Physics, Cornell University	Fall 1995
SLAC Experimental Program Advisory Committee	1993–1995
Consultant on Kapton Ion Chambers, Varian Labs	1986
NSF committee to advise director on basic research in physics	1986

AWARDS and SELECTED LECTURESHIPS

Member, American Philosophical Society	2025
Member, German National Academies of Sciences Leopoldina	2023
Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)	2022
Helmholtz International Fellow Award for Outstanding Scientific Achievement	2012
Occam Lecturer, Merton College, Oxford	2011
Member, National Academy of Sciences	2010
Member, American Academy of Arts and Sciences	2007
Morris Loeb Lecturer in Physics, Harvard University	2006
Wellesley College Alumnae Achievement Award	2006
Plenary Speaker, AAAS Celebration of the World Year of Physics “Frontiers of 21 st Century Physics”	2005
Physics and Astronomy Commencement Speaker, UC Berkeley	2003
Discover Magazine – 50 Most Important Women in Science	2002
Guggenheim Foundation Fellow	1998
Fellow, American Physical Society	1997
NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award	1988–1993
NSF Graduate Fellow	1977–1980
Bell Labs GRPW Grant	1977–1983
Lewis A. Stimson Prize in Mathematics, Wellesley College	1977
Phi Beta Kappa	1976
Sigma Xi	1976