

Pamela Riggs-Gelasco
Chemistry and Biochemistry

2012 William V. Moore Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award



Pamela Riggs-Gelasco joined the faculty at the College of Charleston in 1998, after completing post-doctoral work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her PhD in Chemistry is from the University of Michigan, and she earned a BA from Albion College. Her research on the structure and mechanism of metal-containing enzymes overlaps the disciplines of Physical, Inorganic, and Biological Chemistry. This research involves frequent travel to synchrotron facilities at national laboratories; these particle accelerators provide the x-rays used in structural studies on the enzymes. Dr. Riggs-Gelasco includes undergraduates in all facets of her research, and she has mentored over 30 students in summer research experiences, funded by College of Charleston, the NIH, HHMI, ACS-PRF, and the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation. She enjoys teaching both freshmen and seniors, having developed a learning community for Pre-Med students, an upper-level research course for biochemistry majors, and a seminar course on biochemical basis of disease for senior biology and biochemistry majors. She serves as Program Director for the College's 2008 award from HHMI that supports research and science education initiatives and was awarded a Henry Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award in the Chemical Sciences from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation in 2007.