Associate Director of Science for Basic Energy Sciences

Harriet Kung

Dr. Harriet Kung has served as the Associate Director of Science for Basic Energy Sciences (BES) since June 9, 2008. With an annual budget of more than $1.7 billion in 2014, BES is the nation's leading supporter of fundamental research in materials sciences, chemistry, geosciences, and aspects of physical biosciences. BES is also a major supporter of scientific user facilities, including the nation's premier x-ray synchrotron light sources, neutron scattering facilities, and nanoscale science research centers. These facilities serve over 15,000 users annually, and they provide the tools for the preparation and examination of materials and the study of their physical and chemical properties and transformations.

During her tenure in BES, Dr. Kung led a number of Basic Research Needs workshops to define scientific research directions for science-to-technology pathways and was instrumental in the success of interagency collaborations, DOE research integration efforts, and international coordination activities. Under her leadership, BES has pursued new funding modalities in advancing the science for the energy research agenda, including the establishment of Energy Frontier Research Centers and the Fuels from Sunlight and the Batteries and Energy Storage Energy Innovation Hubs. In 2010, BES also successfully completed the world’s first x-ray free electron laser user facility—the Linac Coherent Light Source. Dr. Kung received her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering with a minor in Applied and Engineering Physics from Cornell University. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 2010.