



Press Release

November 14, 2011

Williamsburg, VA - The Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences (CCAS) has recognized Deborah Byrd, founder and president of EarthSky: A Clear Voice for Science, with its 2011 Arts & Sciences Advocacy Award. The announcement was made November 4 at the organization’s 46th Annual Meeting in Montréal, Québec, Canada.

The CCAS Arts & Sciences Advocacy Award honors an individual or organization demonstrating exemplary advocacy for the arts and sciences, flowing from a deep commitment to the intrinsic worth of liberal arts education.



In presenting the award to Ms. Byrd, CCAS President Valerie Gray Hardcastle (on right in photo), dean of the McMicken College of Arts & Sciences at the University of Cincinnati, announced that CCAS was honoring her for creating and sustaining a digital media company that interviews scientists and brings their research and insights to the attention of millions of people worldwide, through radio, podcast, a website, and other social media. Hardcastle said further, “Deborah is an ideal example of what a liberal education can do for a person. She was an English major who discovered science as a senior, when she finally enrolled in a required general education course. She fell in love with science and then went on to merge both areas into a productive and important career.”

In accepting the award, Byrd thanked the Council and noted that ““We at EarthSky are thrilled and honored to accept this award. In today's world, with a human population of 7 billion, science is more than ever vital to the well-being and sustainability of human society. EarthSky advocates for science and brings the voices of scientists to millions of people, with the goal of enabling them to understand and support scientific insights and discoveries.” She told the assembled deans, “We are grateful to the members of CCAS for their work in supporting an environment conducive to scientific research.”

Learn more about Byrd’s organization at www.earthsky.org.

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CCAS is the largest association of arts and sciences deans, with approximately 1600 members at nearly 500 baccalaureate-granting institutions in the US, Canada, and other countries. CCAS is headquartered at The College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.