The Denice Dee Denton Distinguished Lecture Series presents

The National Transformation of Science Education

Jo Handelsman, Yale University

Friday, November 8, 2013
Lecture 3–4 p.m., Reception 4–5 p.m.
Ebling Symposium Center, 1220 Microbial Sciences Building
1550 Linden Drive, Madison, WI 53706

wiseli.engr.wisc.edu/denton/denton-lecture2013.php

Dr. Jo Handelsman

Yale University: Frederick Phineas Rose Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology and Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor

Dr. Jo Handelsman is well-known for her discoveries about microbial communities and the small molecules that influence their behavior. She was one of the pioneers of the field of metagenomics, a term she coined. Metagenomics has revolutionized understanding of microbial communities.

In addition to her microbiology research program, Dr. Handelsman is known internationally for her efforts to improve science education and increase the participation of women and minorities in science at the university level. She was recently nominated by President Obama for the position of Associate Director for Science in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and awaits Senate confirmation. Dr. Handelsman has co-authored over 100 scientific papers, 30 editorials, and three books. She has received numerous awards in recognition of her mentoring, teaching, and research contributions. In 2012, Nature named her one of “ten people who mattered this year” for her research on gender bias in science.

Denise Dee Denton (1959–2006) began her career as the only woman in the department of Electrical & Computer Engineering at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. During her meteoric career, she went on to become Dean of Engineering at the University of Washington, and Chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, and was a leader in the areas of research, education, professional development, and diversity.

“She was bigger than life. She opened doors and stood in them to let others through. She mentored young scholars and students. Her enthusiasm for science was clear and infectious. She was a force—a magnificent force. She pushed the institutions she inhabited to be better than they wanted to be.” — Former University of Wisconsin–Madison Chancellor Donna Shalala