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Dr. Rita Teutonico currently serves as Advisor for Integrative Activities in the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences, Office of the Assistant Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF). As an NSF employee since 2002, she has held numerous positions, including senior-level positions serving as Deputy Director (Acting) for the Division of Social and Economic Sciences and Deputy Director for the Division of Molecular and Cellular Biosciences. Prior to those positions, she was Program Officer for the Genes and Genome Systems Cluster within the Biology Directorate. Dr. Teutonico is currently chairing the NSF-wide Science, Engineering and Education for Sustainability (SEES) Group to coordinate NSF's portfolio of sustainability science and engineering activities. Prior to this role, she coordinated the NSF-wide activities in the Climate Research Investment areas and the Human and Social Dynamics priority area. Dr. Teutonico has been very active in other cross-NSF, interdisciplinary initiatives, such as the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeships, Partnerships in International Research and Education, Cyber-enabled Discovery and Innovation, Nanoscience and Engineering. She has also been active in interagency working groups, most recently serving as the chair of an NSTC task group on research needs for agricultural biotechnology risk analysis

Prior to her service at NSF, Dr. Teutonico was an Associate Professor in the Integrated Science and Technology (ISAT) Program, Biotechnology concentration, at James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA. In addition to developing new curriculum for this interdisciplinary program, she mentored numerous undergraduate student research projects related to biotechnology research, including ELSI (ethical, legal, and social implications) and bio-ethics issues. Her research experience also includes a postdoctoral position at the University of Wisconsin, Madison where she studied the molecular genetics of stress tolerances in crop plants, such as canola.

In addition, Dr. Teutonico has had experience in private industry, having held the position of research associate in an agricultural biotechnology firm and as Vice President of Research Services for a consulting firm specializing in market research for high-technology industries.

Dr. Teutonico received her B.S. degree at Cornell University, M.S. at the University of Delaware, and Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Teutonico received the NSF Director's Awards for Collaborative Integration in 2010, Management Excellence in 2009 and for Collaborative Integration in 2008. She recently completed training at the Federal Executive Institute program on Leadership for a Democratic Society.