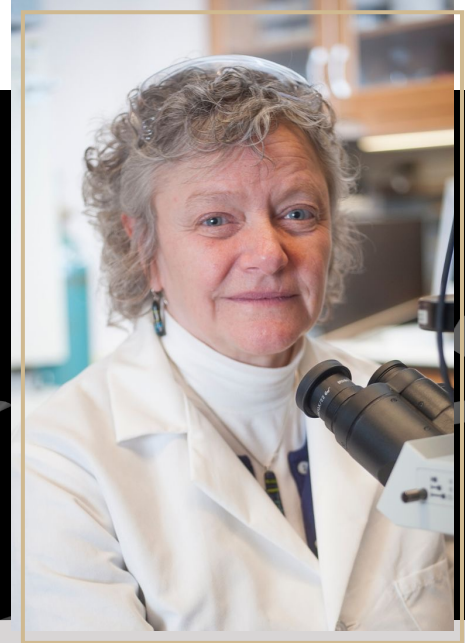


CELEBRATE PURDUE WOMEN

DOROTHY TEEGARDEN



WHAT DOES MENTORSHIP MEAN TO YOU?

Mentorship has made an enormous difference to me in my career, both as a mentor and a mentee; it is a two-way process. Without doubt there are three mentors for me who changed my life so much for the better. They listened, they believed, and they gave me the freedom with support for me to strive to be the best researcher and the best administrator I could. Through their model, I also learned to be a better mentor with these same strategies.

Dorothy Teegarden is a Professor in the Department of Nutrition Science. One of her primary research areas is identifying molecular mechanisms that regulate alterations in energy metabolism to identify interventions such as vitamin D to prevent breast cancer. She served for 7 years as Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Programs for the College of Health and Human Sciences. She also currently serves as the Director of the Women's Global Health Institute, which is focused on supporting research to improve the health of women and the Associate Director, lead of Education and Training, for the Institute for Cancer Research.

WHAT ROLE HAS COLLABORATION PLAYED IN YOUR ACADEMIC JOURNEY?

When I started as a researcher, I was very much in a siloed world. However, my mentor helped me to learn to be open to collaborations, and to engage across a range of types of scientists. Currently, my research collaborations have helped me to be a much better scientist, and my research is much more enjoyable, exciting and far more productive.

WHEN WAS A TIME YOU FELT INSPIRED BY YOUR COMMUNITY?

One of the most inspiring and satisfying elements of my job is to watch young scientists learn, become passionate about research, and succeed. It is also inspiring to watch interactions of other mentors and their impact on students.