



The Ecological Society of America's  
Focus on Ecologists Project Presents:

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## Commitment to Human Diversity in Ecology Award

**Mary A. McKenna**



The **Commitment to Human Diversity in Ecology Award** recognizes long-standing contributions and outstanding work towards fostering, supporting, and increasing the diversity of future ecologists through mentoring, teaching, or outreach.

In her 29 years at Howard University, Dr. McKenna's greatest contribution to promoting the diversity of future ecologists has been her ability to develop structured, engaging and meaningful undergraduate research mentoring programs for aspiring minority students. Dr. McKenna began an NSF-funded project which funded the acquisition of environmental research equipment, supported student research in plant science and facilitated pre-college mentoring and outreach efforts. Dr. McKenna also started the Howard University Environmental Biology Scholars Program. She continues to be successful in securing federal agency and foundational funding to maintain all initiatives at Howard University.