

Carol T. Christ 10th President of Smith College



An esteemed scholar of English literature and a recognized leader in higher education, Carol T. Christ is the 10th president of Smith College.

Christ came to Smith in 2002 following a 30-year career in teaching and administration at the University of California, Berkeley, which culminated in her appointment as executive vice chancellor, the university's top academic officer.

At Smith, Christ has led a comprehensive strategic planning process to identify the distinctive intellectual traditions of the Smith curriculum and to develop students' essential capacities. *The Smith Design for Learning: A Plan to Reimagine a Liberal Arts Education* identifies priority areas—among them, international studies, environmental sustainability, and community engagement—for significant investment over the coming decade. The product of two years of intensive work and the engagement of thousands of alumnae, faculty, staff and students, *The Smith Design* underscores Smith's mission to “educate women of promise for lives of distinction.”

In the area of capital planning, Christ has advanced construction of a state-of-the-art, sustainably designed classroom and laboratory facility to be named Ford Hall, in recognition of its lead donor, the Ford Motor Company Fund. When opened in fall 2009, Ford Hall will be home to the college's pioneering Picker Engineering Program as well as the departments of molecular biology, chemistry, biochemistry and computer science.

Christ graduated with honors from Douglass College and received her doctorate from Yale University. As president, she has continued to teach, offering seminars on science and literature, and on the arts. In 2004 she was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, in recognition of her accomplishments in higher education. In 2007 Yale University Graduate School presented Christ with its highest honor, the Wilbur Lucius Cross Medal, in recognition of her distinguished achievements in scholarship, teaching, academic administration and public service.