

## New CACHE Trustee Elected



Maria K. Burka received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Chemical Engineering and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University. Retired since January, 2016, Maria served as director of the Process Systems, Reaction Engineering and Molecular Thermodynamics program at the National Science Foundation (NSF). In this position, her portfolio spanned a broad range of research areas including chemical reaction engineering, chemical process design and control, reactive polymer processing, and molecular architecture and thermodynamics. Previously it also included biochemical engineering. Her NSF responsibilities primarily involved the support of academic research projects in these areas as well as identification and support of emerging research areas of both technological importance and societal benefit. She was the acting division director of the Chemical, Bioengineering, Environmental, and Transport Systems Division in 2008. Prior to her experience at NSF, she was a senior scientist at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), where she was involved with research and development projects aimed at decreasing SO<sub>x</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> pollutants from coal fired power generation facilities. She previously served on the faculty of the University of Maryland - College Park, and as a process design engineer at the Scientific Design Company in New York City. Her publications have been in the areas of chemical process design, control and systems technology.

Dr. Burka has been an active member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) since 1970. She has served on numerous committees, and was elected Director and Chair of the Catalysis and Reaction Engineering Division (CRE) and Secretary/Treasurer of the Computing & Systems Technology Division (CAST). She has been active in and was elected chair of the local AIChE section, the National Capital Section. She served on the Board of Directors of AIChE in 2002 and was elected AIChE President for 2011. Since then she has chaired its Public Affairs and Information Committee in 2014 and 2015, is presently the chair of the Awards Committee and has been actively promoting AIChE in the international arena. Maria is the recipient of the 2014 Van Antwerpen Award for Service to the Institute. In addition to her service in AIChE, she was active in the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the American Chemical Society (ACS), and the American Association of University Women (AAUW).