

## **Laura J. Steinberg Named Dean of Syracuse University's L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science**

Syracuse, N.Y. – Laura J. Steinberg, professor and chair of the Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering at Southern Methodist University (SMU) in Dallas and an internationally known civil and environmental engineering scholar, has been named dean of Syracuse University's L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science (LCS). The appointment is effective Aug. 1, 2008.

An SMU faculty member since 2006, Steinberg was named department chair in 2007. Previously, she spent more than a decade in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Tulane University in New Orleans as both an assistant professor and an associate professor. She was also a co-founder of Tulane's Earth & Ecosystem Sciences interdisciplinary Ph.D. program and an adjunct associate professor in the Tulane School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine.

Steinberg is the first external candidate to be recruited as dean of the college in more than 100 years. She will also join a select group, becoming only the fourth woman to currently serve as dean of an engineering/computer science school among the 62 member institutions of the Association of American Universities (AAU). Steinberg has also received a courtesy appointment from the Department of Public Administration in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs in recognition of her scholarly work at the interface of engineering and policy, and in anticipation of close collaboration with Maxwell faculty.

"I am impressed with Laura's intellect, energy and her understanding of the role that LCS can play in developing interdisciplinary programs across SU's schools and colleges," said Vice Chancellor and Provost Eric F. Spina. "Laura understands very well the changing, and increasingly important, role of engineering and computer science in society. Her professional expertise -- at the interface of technology and policy -- is a strong confirmation of the direction in which she will move the college: toward greater leveraging of SU's strengths for academic

and research purposes. This is certainly a direction that will result in greater distinction and impact for LCS."

Steinberg is a member of the Science Advisory Board (Drinking Water Committee) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and also serves as associate editor of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Natural Hazards Review and a member of the editorial board of the Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Steinberg is the author of numerous published articles and a principal investigator or co-principal investigator on numerous research grant projects.

Steinberg holds a bachelor's degree in civil and urban engineering from the University of Pennsylvania and master's and doctoral degrees from the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at Duke University. She also undertook master of business administration studies at the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business.