

Contact

www.linkedin.com/in/drchavonda
(LinkedIn)
www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/01/28/inspiring-a-new-generation-innovators (Other)

Top Skills

Public Policy
Science
Bioenergy

Certifications

Federal Senior Executive Service
Certification

Honors-Awards

FLC Laboratory Director of the Year
N.C. State University Outstanding
Alumnus Award
Outstanding Achievement in
Government
2016 Meritorious Presidential Rank
Award
Elected Fellow, AAAS

Chavonda Jacobs-Young, Ph.D.

Under Secretary & Chief Scientist
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Summary

Dr. Chavonda Jacobs-Young is the USDA Chief Scientist and Research, Education, and Economics Under Secretary. Previously, she served as Administrator of the USDA Agricultural Research Service. Dr. Jacobs-Young is a member of the United States Senior Executive Service. Prior to joining ARS, she served as Director of the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist and led the National Institute of Food and Agriculture as Acting Director. Dr. Jacobs-Young also served as Senior Policy Analyst for Agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Previously, she was a faculty member at the University of Washington. @drchavonda

Experience

USDA

Under Secretary & Chief Scientist
June 2022 - Present (1 year 2 months)
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

USDA-ARS

10 years 1 month

Administrator

February 2014 - June 2022 (8 years 5 months)
Washington D.C. Metro Area

Dr. Jacobs-Young provided national leadership, vision, guidance, and direction for the Agricultural Research Service. ARS is one of the world's premier agricultural scientific organizations (approximately \$1.4B annual appropriations). ARS' portfolio of research and technology transfer programs deliver scientific solutions to many of the nation's highest priority agricultural challenges.

Associate Administrator, Agricultural Research Service
June 2012 - February 2014 (1 year 9 months)

Beltsville, Maryland

Dr. Jacobs-Young led the Office of National Programs which provides national scientific and technical leadership for program planning, coordination, review, and evaluation of the ARS research portfolio (approximately \$1.4B annual appropriations). During her tenure she oversaw strategic investments in food safety, nutrition, crop and animal production and protection, natural resources, and sustainable agricultural systems.

Acting Administrator

October 2013 - December 2013 (3 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

USDA

3 years 11 months

Acting Under Secretary, REE

January 2021 - July 2021 (7 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

USDA Acting Chief Scientist

September 2017 - July 2021 (3 years 11 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Acting REE Deputy Under Secretary

September 2017 - January 2019 (1 year 5 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

USDA

10 years

Director, Office of the Chief Scientist

December 2009 - June 2012 (2 years 7 months)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Dr. Jacobs-Young was instrumental in establishing the USDA Office of the Chief Scientist and served as its first Director. Her responsibilities included facilitating the coordination of scientific leadership across USDA to ensure that research supported by, and scientific advice provided to, the Department and external stakeholders were held to the highest standards of intellectual rigor and scientific integrity. During her tenure she led the development of the first USDA Scientific Integrity Policy and facilitated the reestablishment of the USDA Science Council.

Acting Director, National Institute of Food and Agriculture

May 2011 - May 2012 (1 year 1 month)

Dr. Jacobs-Young provided executive leadership for USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). Annually NIFA awards approximately \$1.2B in grants to researchers across the Nation for a wide range of research, education, and extension activities. NIFA also serves as the National Headquarter for 4H.

National Program Leader

July 2002 - December 2009 (7 years 6 months)

Dr. Jacobs-Young led competitive research programs in the USDA National Research Initiative, USDA's largest competitive program. She administered extramural funding programs in the areas of biobased products including non-food processing, biotechnology, metabolic engineering, bioenergy production, and forest products research.

Executive Office of the President, The White House

Senior Policy Analyst

May 2008 - May 2010 (2 years 1 month)

Washington D.C. Metro Area

Dr. Jacobs-Young served as a senior policy analyst for agriculture in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. There, she supported the President's science adviser and others within the Executive Office of the President on high priority agricultural scientific topics. She led interagency collaborations across the federal government to accomplish key scientific goals.

University of Washington

Assistant Professor of Paper Science and Engineering

September 1995 - September 2004 (9 years 1 month)

Weyerhaeuser

Consultant

1996 - 2001 (5 years)

Education

North Carolina State University

Ph.D., Wood and Paper Science · (1994 - 1998)

American University

Executive Leadership Certificate, Public Policy Implementation · (2007 - 2008)

North Carolina State University

MS, Wood and Paper Science · (1990 - 1992)

North Carolina State University

BS, Paper Science and Engineering · (1985 - 1989)