



Anita Summers, Professor Emerita

Anita A. Summers is a Professor Emerita of the Wharton School. She did her graduate work in economics at the University of Chicago and Columbia University, worked as a Senior Economic Analyst at Standard Oil of N.J., was home for a number of years with three sons, then taught at Swarthmore College for six years. In 1979, she became Senior Economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, heading their Urban Research Section, working on urban public finance. In 1979, Dean Donald Carroll of the Wharton School wanted to start a Public Policy program--the first business school in the country to have such a program--and asked her to head it. She became Professor and Chair of the department in 1982. Professor Summers was a member of the Provost's Academic Planning and Budget Committee from 1984 to 1990, chaired the Research Policy Committee of the Wharton School, and was a member of a number of Wharton committees. She published numerous articles involving econometric analysis of educational efficiency and four books on the Philadelphia economy, and was a recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award at Wharton a number of times. She headed the Economic Impact Committee of the Three Island Commission, was an expert witness on six state school finance cases, and was an economics advisor to Mayors Rizzo, Green, Goode, Rendell, and Nutter. After she retired she was University Ombudsman from 2001-2003, and a Senior Research Fellow at the Wharton School's Samuel Zell and Robert Lurie Real Estate Center from 1993-2010. She is currently on Wharton's MBA Ethics Committee. Along the way, she was Board Chair of Mathematica Policy Research for 19 years, and continues as a Board Member.