

Brief Bio of Dr. Denis E. Beller

Denis E. Beller (Ph.D., Purdue Univ., 1986; M.S.N.E, Air Force Inst. of Tech., 1981; B.S.Ch.E., Univ. of Colorado, 1976) is a Research Professor at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), and a Visiting Research Professor at the Idaho State University (ISU), where he directs the Reactor-Accelerator Coupling Experiments (RACE) Project for the Idaho Accelerator Center (IAC) and the national Advanced Fuel Cycle Initiative (AFCI) Program. The AFCI is a national research program to develop technology to recycle and reuse used nuclear fuel and to reduce the volume and radio-toxicity of its waste. He coordinated university participation for the AFCI and its predecessors for five years.

Dr. Beller has a background in engineering design and analysis and in management of defense organizations. His research activities have included design and analysis of conceptual systems for nuclear effects testing with inertial confinement fusion, conceptual design of nuclear-pumped lasers, systems studies of accelerator-driven transmutation and long-term national and global deployment of nuclear energy, and formulation and testing of solid rocket propellants (including propellant formulations that were used in Operation Desert Storm). He also managed a rocket test facility, a nuclear detection laboratory that monitored radioactive emissions to support Safeguard D of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, and an Air Force intelligence division that collected and disseminated foreign science and technology information. After graduation from Purdue in 1986, Dr. Beller was a professor at the Air Force Institute of Technology, where he taught graduate nuclear engineering (weapons effects) to military officers for more than seven years. As a result of teaching, research, and professional activities, the faculty selected him as the first tenured military professor in AFIT's 70-year history.

Dr. Beller is also known amongst the nuclear science and technology community as an outspoken advocate of nuclear science, technology, and energy, and as the co-author of an essay that the U.S. Congress credited in July of 2000 for “spark[ing] renewed debate of nuclear energy’s role” as a non-emitting domestic energy source (see the Congressional Record, July 27, 2000). Dr. Beller co-authored the essay with Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Richard Rhodes. “The Need for Nuclear Power” appeared in the Jan/Feb 2000 issue of *Foreign Affairs*, and it was republished in modified form in *The Bulletin of the International Atomic Energy Agency* (6/2000) and in *Earth Times News Daily* (7/2001). It was cited in columns and op-eds in newspapers (e.g. the *Washington Post*), on websites worldwide, and in Sen. Pete Domenici’s book *A Brighter Tomorrow: Fulfilling the Promise of Nuclear Energy*. It has also been entered into the Congressional Record twice (once during Senate testimony for the budget for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, once during a House hearing on environmental benefits of nuclear power). Dr. Beller has spoken in many fora, including a presentation to Congressional staffers in the U.S. Capitol in May 2000, a public lecture during the Marie Curie Celebration in Michigan, opposite nuclear opponents at The Nuclear West Symposium at the University of Utah, at several other universities, and to several local sections of the American Nuclear Society. Some of these presentations have resulted in lengthy, pronuclear articles in local newspapers. Dr. Beller has also appeared on National Public Radio, Public Broadcasting System TV, and other debates on nuclear power and waste disposal. He is the 2nd Vice President of the Eagle Alliance, was the Chairman of the Public Information Committee of the American Nuclear Society, and is a member of several conservation and environmental organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, and the Federation of Fly Fishers.