Joan R. Leitzel

Joan was a professor of mathematics at Ohio State for 25 years and moved into administration there as Associate Provost for Curriculum and Instruction. In 1990 she went to the National Science Foundation as a division director in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources and then assumed the position of Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Nebraska. On July 15, 1996, she became the 17th President of UNH.

Joan has played and continues to play a leadership role on a number of national committees and councils related to higher education and her discipline, mathematics. She served on the board of directors of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges (now APLU) and chaired the board of the American Association for Higher Education. She also chaired the Mathematical Sciences Education Board at the National Research Council and most recently the Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences. In New Hampshire she was on the boards of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the Granite State Opera Company.

When Joan retired as UNH president, she returned to Columbus, Ohio, and continues to be engaged with higher education issues and institutions. She served Ohio State one more year to lead the restructuring of Arts and Sciences there and periodically consults with other universities, including Zayed University in the United Arab Emirates. She has received the Hanover College Distinguished Alumni Award, the Ohio State Award for Distinguished Teaching, the Ohio State Distinguished Service Award, and the UNH Charles Holmes Pettee Medal.