

Lisa A. Rossbacher

Lisa A. Rossbacher became the president of Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, Georgia in 1998. She earned her Ph.D. (Geological and Geophysical Sciences) at Princeton University, and she has worked for the U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, a geothermal exploration company, and National Public Radio. She has served in faculty and administrative positions at the California State Polytechnic University – Pomona, Whittier College (California), and Dickinson College (Pennsylvania). In 2007, she spent four months on an interim assignment as the Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer for the 35-institution University System of Georgia.

Her research interests focus on the role of water and water ice on the planet Mars. In 1984, she was a finalist in NASA's astronaut selection process. She was elected to Phi Beta Kappa as an undergraduate and to the status of Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 2001. Her bimonthly column has appeared in the magazine *Geotimes* (renamed *Earth* in 2008) since 1988, and she has authored books on geology, science, and the media.

Dr. Rossbacher is the 2009 Chairwoman of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. She is active in the Marietta Kiwanis and a board member of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. She chaired the United Way of Cobb campaign in 2000, which met the campaign target of \$7 million. She was the 2006 chair of the Cobb YMCA Board of Directors, and she served two consecutive years as Board Chair of the Atlanta Regional Consortium for Higher Education in 2006 and 2007. In 2009, she joined the Board of Trustees of the Geological Society of America Foundation.

Her husband, Dr. Dallas D. Rhodes, chairs the Department of Geology and Geography at Georgia Southern University.

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