



## SSP's First Chief Academic Officer Named

May 1, 2017 - The Summer Science Program (SSP) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Amy Barr Mlinar as its first Chief Academic Officer. In that role, she will assume responsibility for faculty recruitment and development, and ensure that SSP programs are academically consistent, rigorous, and retain the unique culture at the heart of SSP's success.

Over two decades, Dr. Barr Mlinar has filled many other roles at SSP. She attended as a participant in 1994, then returned as a Teaching Assistant in 1999, 2000, and 2002. A Trustee since 2004, she has served on the Audit, Nominating, Faculty, and Executive Committees. In 2006, she wrote the first edition of *SSP Values and Traditions*, documenting SSP's educational philosophy and design.

Board Chair Dr. Scott Pace noted, "SSP was fortunate to have someone of Amy's caliber and experience available for this important new position. She combines a strong academic background with the most varied SSP experience. We got the best of both!"

Dr. Barr Mlinar is an expert in the formation and evolution of solid planetary bodies. She holds a B.S. in Planetary Science from Caltech, and a Ph.D. in Astrophysics and Planetary Science from University of Colorado, Boulder. She has served as an Assistant Professor at Brown University, and is currently a Senior Scientist with the Planetary Science Institute in Tucson, AZ.

Dr. Barr Mlinar's appointment was made possible by a generous grant from an anonymous donor, who shared "We are thrilled with Dr. Barr Mlinar's appointment, and are happy to help catalyze progress in SSP's academic support, training, and mentoring."

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SSP is a unique, 40-day immersion in hands-on, collaborative research in Astrophysics or Biochemistry for talented and motivated high school students. One of the oldest (since 1959) and most successful pre-college programs, SSP is currently held on the campuses of New Mexico Institute of Technology, and Univ. of Colorado Boulder, and Purdue Univ. Visit [www.summerscience.org](http://www.summerscience.org) for more information. The Summer Science Program is an independent non-profit corporation, managed and largely funded by its own alumni.