



## Rupa Iyer, PhD

Vice President of Research,  
Innovation & Economic Development

**Tarleton State University**

Dr. Rupa Iyer is the inaugural Vice President of Research, Innovation and Economic Development and Professor of Biology at Tarleton State University. She is leading the planning, implementation, and oversight for a university-wide strategic initiative to expand research and innovation and promote partnerships to stimulate economic development.

Prior to joining Tarleton, she was the Founding Director of Biotechnology programs, Professor, and Associate Dean of Research and Graduate Studies at the University of Houston. She procured millions of dollars in state and federal funding to create and implement the first accredited biotechnology program in the country. The program is accredited by the Association of Technology Management and Applied Engineering (ATMAE). Dr. Iyer holds a Ph.D. in microbial genetics from Michigan State University and conducted her postdoctoral studies at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Research Center, Houston, TX. Her research is in soil microbiome exposure and adaptation to xenobiotic compounds, and its implications and applications in biotechnology.

Dr. Iyer is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). The Gulf Coast/Houston chapter of the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) gave Dr. Iyer its Outstanding Women in Science Award in recognition of her leadership, mentoring and commitment to STEM education, research and careers. She has received the University of Houston's highest teaching honor, the Distinguished Leadership in Teaching award. Dr. Iyer was a Fulbright Specialist to Morocco where she was responsible for advising on implementing academic and research programs. She was Program Director at the National Science Foundation (NSF) in Alexandria, VA, between 2017-2019. Dr. Iyer currently serves on the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU), Council on Research (COR) Executive Committee.