

Mary Bliss, Ph.D.
Director Position
Area Groups, Industry, State and Federal Laboratories Constituency Group
Biography

Mary Bliss, Ph.D. is a materials scientist working in radiation detection technology at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL). She has a bachelor's degree in Ceramic Science from Alfred University, a master's degree in Ceramic Science and a Ph.D. in Solid State Science from the Pennsylvania State University. She worked in the composition control and applied research group at Corning while in college. Her Master's thesis was on the molten salt growth of piezoelectrics for sonar applications and her doctorate research was on the absolute infrared intensities of the silicon to oxygen bond in minerals. She worked briefly at General Electric Neutron Devices where she was in a production support group that focused on materials acceptance, production problems, and contamination issues. This was an NQA Level 1 facility run by the US Department of Energy. At PNNL, Dr. Bliss and her team won an R&D 100 Award and a Federal Laboratory Consortium Technology Transfer Award in 1999 for developing enriched lithium glass fiber neutron detectors. This effort also won an American Chemical Society Regional Innovation Award in 2005. In 2000 she was named the Battelle Pacific Northwest Division Woman of Achievement partly for her efforts to start a lactation support program at the Laboratory. She was also named National Security Directorate Derivative Classifier of the Year in 2019. She is the author of over 70 open literature publications and government reports and six patents. She has worked on scintillators, wide bandgap semiconductors, chemical sensors, polymers and inorganic materials. She is a member of the American Ceramic Society, Sigma Xi Honor Society and the Daughters of the American Revolution.