

Dr. Poodry is a Courtesy Professor at the University of Oregon and an Emeritus Professor of Biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he previously served as Department Chair, Dean, and Acting Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Affairs. A native of the Tonawanda Seneca Indian Reservation in Western New York, he brings extensive experience in academic leadership, research training, and workforce development.

Dr. Poodry formerly directed the Training Workforce Development and Research Training Division at the National Institute of General Medical Sciences (NIGMS), NIH. In this role, he led the development of national research training and capacity-building initiatives, including the Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA), which integrates postdoctoral research training with teaching experience at minority-serving institutions. He also helped launch programs focused on understanding the impact of training interventions and co-developed the Native American Research Centers for Health (NARCH) program in partnership with the Indian Health Service.

He has served in advisory roles at the National Human Genome Research Institute and was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Dr. Poodry continues to advise national organizations and leadership programs, including SACNAS Leadership Institutes, where he supports the development of future scientific leaders.