

Pearl Fernandes

Pearl is an Associate Professor of Biology at the University of South Carolina Sumter; an Affiliate Faculty in Women's Studies and an Associate Faculty in the School of the Environment at the University of South Carolina Columbia. Pearl serves on the SENCER Center for Innovation Leadership Council and has been active in SENCER since attending the Summer Institute in 2002. A native of Bombay, India, Pearl Fernandes earned her M.S. Degree in Foods, Nutrition and Dietetics from Bombay University and her Ph.D. in Biological Sciences at the University of South Carolina Columbia. She completed her Postdoctoral Research at the University of Florida, Gainesville, in gene- nutrient interactions under National Academy of Sciences Fellow, Dr. Robert Cousins.

Pearl has twice received USC Sumter's Student Government Association Teacher of the Year award, was nominated for Governor's Professor of the Year by the faculty, received the Outstanding Faculty Award from the USC Sumter administration, and the YWCA TWIN Award from the Sumter community. She has served nationally on the American Society for Cell Biology Minority Affairs Committee, serves on the Board and as Publicity Chair for the South Carolina Academy of Sciences, is active in the South Carolina Junior Academy of Sciences and Region II Science Fairs, serves on the Boards for the University of South Carolina Alumni (Richland/ Lexington Counties) and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce.

Pearl was a co-recipient of a one-year NSF grant which supported the development of an HIV/AIDS five-module course titled *Life Science in Context: Sub-Saharan Africa and HIV AIDS* which has been recognized as a model course by SENCER. At USC Sumter, Pearl also coordinates linked interdisciplinary SENCER courses focusing on the Environment and is involved in engaging students in Public Health issues in her pre-med and allied health courses.