

# **Diane Turnshek**

**Special Lecturer at Carnegie Mellon University**

Pittsburgh, PA, US

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## **Biography**

Diane Turnshek has spent her career studying astronomy and is one of the foremost experts on light pollution, artificial light from such sources as streetlamps, residential houses, businesses, construction sites, vehicles and billboards. This excessive artificial light, or light pollution, doesn't just stop us from admiring our galaxy, but it adversely affects human health, harms plants and animals, and wastes money and energy. Turnshek was part of a team that helped draft the City of Pittsburgh's Dark Sky Ordinance for all of the city's parks, facilities and streetlights.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Dark Sky Ordinance, Light Pollution, Artificial Light, Astronomy

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## **Affiliations**

International Astronomical Union, American Astronomical Society, American Physical Society, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America

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## **Event Appearances**

### **Methods and Modeling**

(2023) 9th International ALAN Conference

### **Foreign Policy Association's Great Decisions Lecture and a Panel on "Cities and Infrastructure"**

(2022) IntersectCMU Conference

### **"Blue Sky Thinking, with Stars"**

(2021) PA Conference for Young Women in Physics

### **"Alteration in the Experience of Dark Nights Due to Artificial Light?"**

(2021) Temporal Belongings Conference: The Material Life of Times

**"In Conversation: The Art and History of the Night Sky"**  
(2021) The Frick

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## **Education**

**University of Arizona**  
M.S. Astronomy

**Villanova University**  
B.S. Astronomy

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## **Accomplishments**

**Dark Sky Defender Award, International Dark-Sky Association**  
2015

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