

Bernadette M. Allen

Bernadette M. Allen completed her 30-year Foreign Service career in the United States diplomatic corps in May 2010. She served as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Niger from March 2006 through January 2010. Other overseas postings included Burundi, The People's Republic of China, The Republic of the Philippines and Canada, as well as temporary duty assignments in Haiti and Japan. Her service years in Washington, DC included desk officer to management level positions in the Bureau of African Affairs, the Bureau of Consular Affairs, the Bureau of Legislative Affairs and the National Foreign Affairs Training Center. She received several superior honor awards for outstanding management and leadership at the U.S. Department of State. She speaks fluent French and maintains conversational ability in Mandarin Chinese and Hausa.

Ms. Allen earned a Masters of Arts degree in Human Resources Management from the George Washington University in Washington, DC, awarded in February 1990. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in French Civilization and Linguistics from Central College in Pella, Iowa, awarded in May 1978. She earned a French language certificate from the Sorbonne University in Paris, France in May 1977. Central College awarded her its 2008 Alumni Achievement Award. In May 2013, Central College awarded Ms. Allen an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

Ms. Allen was born in Washington, DC, and raised in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. She is a product of the Prince George's County, Maryland public school system. In April 2013, she was elected to serve as a Central College Board of Trustees member. Her appointment as a member of the Foreign Service Grievance Board commenced in November 2013.