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Mary Saunders currently serves as Director, Standards Coordination Office, NIST. In this capacity, she represents NIST and its significant interests in the standards and conformity assessment community and advises NIST leadership on policy and strategy as they relate to NIST's role in standardization. Her responsibilities include serving as a central point of focus for standards and conformity assessment policy for NIST, coordinating with the private sector and other federal agencies on standardization activities, leading interagency standards coordination, and leading NIST's standards interactions with foreign governments.

Prior to her return to NIST, Ms. Saunders served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services, where she managed the day-to-day operations of the International Trade Administration's (ITA) Manufacturing and Services division of more than 200 industry specialists, economists and international trade experts. She helped strengthen the competitive position of U.S. industries in the U.S. and world markets by coordinating Commerce Department strategies, policies and programs with U.S. industries in mind. At NIST, she served in a variety of positions during a 15 year career, including Chief, Standards Services Division. In that capacity, she administered a range of standards-related programs to provide solutions to regulatory and industry needs and increase trade opportunities. Over the course of her Commerce career, Ms. Saunders has managed programs to advance U.S. business and technology interests in the European Union, Russia and the Newly Independent States, China and Japan. She has worked with a broad range of sectors on competitiveness and market access issues, including information and communications technologies, telecommunications, medical devices, oil and gas equipment, construction equipment, energy technologies and consumer goods.

Ms. Saunders has been in federal service since 1979, serving in a variety of positions with the Department of the Army, including the Office of Institutional Research, U.S. Military Academy, before joining ITA in 1986. In ITA, she served as a special assistant in the Office of Capital Goods and as Team Leader, Internal Market Staff, in the Office of European Community Affairs, where she was a member of the U.S. team that negotiated the U.S.-European Union Mutual Recognition Agreement.

She has received the Department's Silver and Bronze Medals for outstanding achievements on several occasions during her Commerce career. She received her B.A. from Vanderbilt University and an M.P.A. from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University.