Beverly Smith received her Bachelor's Degree in Physics from Brown University, and her Ph.D. in Astronomy from the University of Massachusetts. She has held positions as a post-doctoral research scientist at three institutions: the University of Texas in Austin, the Infrared Processing and Analysis Center at the California Institute of Technology, and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

She has taught astronomy at East Tennessee State University since 1999, where she is a professor in the Physics and Astronomy Department.

