

The Honorable Dr. Kathie L. Olsen is the Founder and Managing Director of ScienceWorks, a consulting firm in Washington, D.C. Believing research is the core foundation for innovation that will sustain global quality of life and economic vitality, ScienceWorks is dedicated to helping people and organizations succeed in their science and engineering research pursuits. Dr. Olsen is also an Affiliate Professor of Neuroscience at the Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study, George Mason University.



Before founding ScienceWorks, Dr. Olsen served over 20 years in the federal government in a variety of scientific leadership positions, including the Deputy Director and Chief Operating Officer of the National Science Foundation (NSF); Associate Director and Deputy Director for Science of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) in the Executive Office of the President; Chief Scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Acting Associate Administrator for NASA's Biological and Physical Research Enterprise. She also was the Vice President for International Programs at the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), a non-profit organization.

Dr. Olsen earned a B.S. in Biology and Psychology with honors and inducted into Phi Beta Kappa from Chatham College and a Ph.D. in Biology (Neuroscience) from the University of California, Irvine. Her Postdoctoral Fellowship was in the Department of Neuroscience at Children's Hospital of Harvard Medical School. At various times in her early professional career, Dr. Olsen also served as a Research Scientist at the State University of New York – Stony Brook's Long Island Research Institute and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science at the Medical School, as well as Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Microbiology at the George Washington University. Her research on neural and genetic mechanisms underlying development and expression of behavior was supported by the National Institutes of Health. She has served on review panels for U.S. federal agencies including National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, United States Department of Defense, as well as foreign governments, international research institutes, and UNESCO.

Dr. Olsen holds numerous career awards including four honorary doctorates from U.S. universities, AIAA's Public Service Award, NASA's Outstanding Leadership Medal, the NSF Director's Award of Excellence, and the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. She serves on several university and scientific society boards and committees. Dr. Olsen is also an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Association for Women in Science.