



Jennifer Kopach

As CEO and SVP Marketing Communications for Science Olympiad, the nation's largest K-12 team STEM competition, Jenny oversees operations and manages partnerships with leading businesses, government agencies, scientific associations and higher education institutions. Career highlights over the past 19 years in national leadership include growing the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative, starting the Science Olympiad Alumni Network, and developing all-new digital Ways to Play.



Jenny is a member of the Science Olympiad Executive Board, Illinois Governor's P-20 Council College and Career Readiness Committee, MxD Workforce Development Committee, NBC Chicago Community Action Board, Economic Club of Chicago Tech Membership Committee and Executives' Club of Chicago Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Task Force, and serves as Precinct Committeewoman for York Township and Illinois State Chair for Million Women Mentors, a national movement aimed at connecting more girls with female leaders in STEM. She worked with President Obama's Office of Science and Technology Policy on six White House Science Fairs and oversees international relations with the Japan Science and Technology Agency on the Science Olympiad Global Ambassador Team program.

Science Olympiad was founded in 1984 as a national nonprofit by Jenny's parents, Dr. Gerard and Sharon Putz, and Jack Cairns of Delaware. When Dr. Putz passed away suddenly in 2019, Jenny took the wheel of the organization, steering it through the oncoming pandemic. To honor the legacy of the founders and their dreams of supporting scientific research, alumni scholarships, a diverse STEM teaching workforce and strong state chapters, the Science Olympiad USA Foundation was founded in 2020. Jenny serves as the President and Executive Director of the Science Olympiad USA Foundation.

Through these positions and with a deep commitment to service, Jenny strives to connect the dots between K-12, higher education and industry, creating workforce development programs, securing grants for high-need communities, and providing opportunities for students who need help lighting a career pathway. She has written about bridging STEM skills and gender gaps for Fortune 500 companies and MENTOR and has spoken about the power of effective mentoring programs at five Million Women Mentors Summits in Washington, DC.