Jennifer Kopach
CEO of Science Olympiad
President & CEO of the Science Olympiad USA Foundation



As CEO of Science Olympiad, Jenny oversees business operations of the nation's largest K-12 team STEM competition, managing grants and partnerships with global corporations, federal government agencies, scientific associations and higher education institutions. Career highlights include starting the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative and the Science Olympiad Alumni Network; working with President Barack Obama's Office of Science and Technology Policy on six White House Science Fairs; overseeing international relations with the Japan Science and Technology Agency for the Science Olympiad Global Ambassador Team program; and developing all-new digital "Ways to Play" and "MY SO" during the pandemic to make sure kids stayed engaged in STEM.

The Science Olympiad USA Foundation was created in 2020 to honor the legacy of the founders of the national organization, Dr. Gerard Putz, Sharon Putz and Jack Cairns, and to support scientific research, college scholarships, STEM teaching and the work of state chapters. To date, Science Olympiad and the Science Olympiad USA Foundation have distributed more than $1.5 million in grants. In her role leading the Foundation, Jenny manages alumni and donor relations as well as gifts, investments, capital and programs designed to impact the greater Science Olympiad community.

Jenny is a member of the Science Olympiad Executive Board, the NBC Chicago Community Action Board, the Economic Club of Chicago and the Executives' Club of Chicago and has served 22 years as elected Democratic Precinct Committeewoman for York Township. She has also served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Economic Club Science, Technology & Innovation Membership Committee; Illinois State Chair for Million Women Mentors; and member of the Governor's P-20 Council College and Career Readiness Committee, the MxD Workforce Development Committee and the Executives' Club Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Task Force.

Through these positions and with a deep commitment to service, Jenny strives to connect the dots between K-12, higher education and industry, funding critical scientific research, creating workforce development programs, securing grants for high-need communities, and providing opportunities for students who need help lighting a career pathway. She has been interviewed and written about bridging STEM skills and gender gaps and has spoken about the power of effective mentoring programs at five Million Women Mentors Summits in Washington, DC. Jenny holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.