

Science Olympiad Executive Board Bios

Board Officers



Steve Betza
Board Chair (2018-2022)

Steve Betza, a 1982 graduate of the Penn State College of Engineering, was a corporate director of the Future Enterprise Initiative at Lockheed Martin. He led a futurist team to identify emerging business and technology trends and high-impact capabilities in engineering, production, supply chain operations and logistics for a corporation with more than 50,000 scientists and engineers and \$47 billion in annual sales. At Lockheed Martin, he served as corporate director for advanced manufacturing, engineering director, program director, and chief information officer. Betza serves on the board of directors of Science Olympiad and the board of trustees for Guthrie Healthcare System in Sayre, Pennsylvania. Steve and his wife Barbara have been Science Olympiad volunteers and coaches of teams in New York for more than 20 years. In 2007, Steve received the Science Olympiad Distinguished Service Award, and was bestowed the Penn State University Alumni Association Alumni Fellow Award in 2017.



Angela Davis
Board Vice Chair (2018-2022)

Angela Davis is the Program Manager of the Office of Distance Education and eLearning at The Ohio State University and the current Ohio Science Olympiad State Director. At OSU, Angela provides leadership and strategy for all science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) focused events including State Science Day, Hackathon, Cyber Security Day and Science Olympiad. She cultivates internal and external relationships, interacts with all levels of the organization, communicates with university committees, faculty, staff, administration and external organizations. As Science Olympiad's State Director, Angela oversees all aspects of the Ohio chapter, serving 320 middle and high school teams, and runs the annual Ohio Science Olympiad State Tournament at OSU. Angela holds a B.S.C. in Telecommunications and Audio Production from Ohio University, where she also obtained a M.Ed. in Cultural Studies in Education. She has received the Science Olympiad Heart of Gold Award.



Renae Cubbin
Board Treasurer (2020-2022)

Renae Cubbin is Vice President, Tax for CNH Industrial, N.V., a global leader in the capital goods sector. Through its brands, including Case IH, New Holland, Iveco and FPT Industrial, the company designs, produces and sells agricultural and construction equipment, trucks, commercial vehicles, buses, special vehicles, and engines and transmissions. Prior to joining CNH Industrial in 2016, Renae worked for General Motors Company. During her 20 years at GM, she held various positions in GM's Tax Staff, including overseas assignments in Germany and Brazil. Renae started her career in KPMG's Detroit office, focusing on financial institutions and insurance companies. Renae holds a B.B.A. degree from the University of Michigan Ross School of Business in Ann Arbor, Michigan and M.S. Tax and J.D. degrees from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. Renae is a member of the State Bar of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Certified Public Accountants. Currently, Renae serves as Treasurer on the Board of the CNH Industrial Foundation and is on the Finance Committee of the Community Consolidated School District 181 in Clarendon Hills, Illinois.

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Board Officers (continued)



Peter Hung
Board Secretary (2020-2022)

Peter Hung is a Project Leader in Science and Technology Strategy and Development at The Aerospace Corporation, a Federally Funded Research and Development Center. He received his B.S. in Physics and M.S. and Ph.D. in Applied Physics from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech). As a Science Olympiad alum, Peter started Caltech's involvement with Science Olympiad and later founded the Caltech Science Olympiad Club to provide opportunities for Science Olympiad alumni to give back to Science Olympiad. He currently serves as the Southern California Science Olympiad State Director and the Bay Area Science Olympiad Regional Director. He received the Science Olympiad Heart of Gold Award in 2009 and served on the National Science Olympiad Advisory Committee from 2017 to 2019. He currently also serves on the board of several other nonprofits to promote and improve undergraduate research at Caltech and in Southern California.

Board Members



Sharon Putz
Board Member

Sharon Putz is one of the co-founders of the Science Olympiad national organization, and currently serves as Senior Advisor to the national office, overseeing many operations of the non-profit. Sharon's skills include program administration, special events management and state chapter oversight. She maintains relationships with key personnel and volunteers and serves as historian of the Science Olympiad organization. Sharon has presented at numerous workshops since the 1970s on elementary science and outdoor education as well as Science Olympiad. Sharon is a lifetime member of the National Science Teachers Association.



Jenny Kopach
Ex-Officio Board Member

As Science Olympiad CEO and Senior Vice President of Marketing Communications, **Jenny Kopach** oversees the operations of Science Olympiad and manages sponsor program implementation with Fortune 500 businesses, government agencies, scientific associations and institutions of higher education. Working closely with a national volunteer network of Rules Committees, State Directors, National Event Supervisors and Advisory Committee Members, she also runs the Science Olympiad Urban Schools Initiative and has expanded the Elementary Science Olympiad. Jenny is a member of the Science Olympiad Executive Board, the Illinois Governor's P-20 Council College and Career Readiness Committee, the MxD Workforce Development Committee, the NBC Chicago Community Action Board and The Executives' Club of Chicago, and serves as Precinct Committeewoman for York Township and Illinois State Chair for Million Women Mentors. She also facilitates relationships with the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Japan Science and Technology Agency.

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Board Members (continued)



Dr. Jon Pedersen
Board Member

Currently **Dr. Jon Pedersen** is the Dean of the College of Education at the University of South Carolina. Dean Pedersen provides leadership and sustained growth in scholarship, teaching, outreach and the development of innovative programs to support faculty, staff and students in the college. He is motivated by seeking opportunities to stimulate those who are inspired by a passion to serve children, youth, families, schools and communities and has developed and provided leadership for innovative programs for faculty, staff, and students in PK-16 education settings. He maintains a focus on communication, participation, and developing collaborations and coalitions in order to achieve college goals including the development of faculty skills; building participation and involvement in the leadership process; and, supporting the empowerment of individuals. Dr. Pedersen is currently active in multiple national/international organizations, and has held many leadership roles including president of the Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE). Over the course of his professional career he has well over 100 publications including 16 books.



Dr. Gerard Putz
Founding Board Member and
Officer (1984-2019)
In Memoriam

Dr. Gerard Putz was President and Co-Founder of Science Olympiad. He served as the Macomb County Science Center Director and Coordinator of Gifted and Talented Programs at the Macomb Intermediate School District (MISD) in Michigan for more than 30 years. He began his career teaching high school Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science and Special Ability Science Programs for the Detroit Public Schools. Dr. Putz lectured at dozens of universities and made more than 100 presentations at science education and gifted and talented conferences across the US and in Japan. Dr. Putz held several advanced degrees, including a Bachelor's Degree in Science from the University of Detroit, a Masters in Guidance and Counseling from Wayne State University, a Master's in Arts and Liberal Sciences from Wesleyan University, and a Doctorate in Secondary Education from Wayne State University. Dr. Putz also attained the rank of Lt. Colonel in the US Army Air Defense Artillery. He served on the boards of many non-profits, associations and community groups and was chosen as the National Outstanding Science Supervisor by the United States National Science Supervisors Association.