

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Kathy Thomas
kthomas@ngcproject.org

Karen Peterson
kpeterson@ngcproject.org

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NATIONAL GIRLS COLLABORATIVE NAMES TWO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Seattle, WA, September 20, 2021 – The National Girls Collaborative (NGC) is pleased to announce the appointment of two new board members, Siobahn Day Grady, Ph.D. and Michael D. Smith, D.Eng.

“We are fortunate to welcome Dr. Grady and Dr. Smith, leaders who demonstrate the power of collaboration, sharing their perspectives and experience with their communities. As NGC looks forward to our 20th anniversary in 2022, we are especially excited to benefit from the expertise of these new board members. They will be instrumental in guiding our organizational impact as we continue to connect, create, and collaborate to transform STEM for all youth.” - Karen Peterson, Founder and Chief Executive Officer.

New members:

Siobahn Day Grady, Ph.D., is the first woman Computer Science Ph.D. graduate from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University. Siobahn received her BS in Computer Science from Winston-Salem State University, a master's degree in Information Science from North Carolina Central University, and in 2018 obtained her master's and a doctorate of philosophy degree in Computer Science from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

She is an Assistant Professor of Information Science/Systems in the School of Library and Information Science at North Carolina Central University, an [AAAS IF/THEN Ambassador](#), and a North Carolina Central University OeL Faculty Fellow.

Dr. Grady advocates for increasing the number of women and minorities in computer science. She believes that "The STEM workforce has both gender disparities and that of historically

disenfranchised groups. As an ambassador, she affects change by examining girls' perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors and helping them gain confidence in curating and developing a STEM identity." Technology is the way of the future, and Dr. Grady has a vision for minority girl's and women's futures. She realizes that vision by providing educational opportunities through community organizations, college courses, and research grants and publications.

Michael D. Smith, D.Eng., has over 25 years of experience in nonprofit organizational operations and change management, governance, program development and implementation, strategic planning, meeting and event planning, and diversity equity and inclusion (DEI) advocacy, with a specialty in STEM fields. His evolved leadership style includes direct stakeholder engagement that spans pre-college through workforce, and nurtured client relationships with a foundation in collaborative networks. Through his passion for DEI, he has delivered and supported strategies that have elevated the DEI efforts within non-profits, academia and industry in their support of underrepresented minorities, persons with disabilities, persons within and allies to the LGBTQIA+ community, and young girls and women.

Michael, known by many as "Dr. Mike", is currently Operations Specialist with The PEER Group, a consulting company that specializes in evaluation, organizational leadership and development, and research with a focus on equity and inclusion. He also served as the former Deputy Executive Director of The National GEM Consortium (GEM) where he was responsible for coordinating the day-to-day operational, financial, programmatic, event planning, external communications, strategic partnerships, and board support services management of the organization, including management of the GEM Fellowship Program.

Prior to GEM, Dr. Mike served as Interim Deputy Executive Director and Director of Programs for the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), responsible for the strategic development, evaluation and implementation coordination of all student and technical professional programs at the chapter, regional and national levels. He has previous industry experience with DuPont Specialty Chemicals, Phillips 66 Natural Gas Company, and Amoco Production, along with academe experience at Texas A&M University. Michael serves on numerous non-profit boards of directors of STEM-based organizations including the National Engineers Week Foundation (DiscoverE), National Girls Collaborative Project, aSTEAM Village and The Carpentries.

Michael holds a B.S. and M.S. in chemical engineering from Missouri University of Science & Technology (UM-Rolla) and doctorate in chemical engineering/ engineering management from

Texas A&M University. Dr. Mike is proud to be a Lifetime member of NSBE, SHPE, AISES (Sequoyah Fellow), and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

About National Girls Collaborative

The National Girls Collaborative (NGC) is the overarching organization that operates numerous ventures. The central endeavor is the [National Girls Collaborative Project](#) (NGCP) which is a network of organizations committed to informing and encouraging girls to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Established in 2002, the NGCP has served over 20.20 million girls and 10 million boys through over 42,500 organizations committed to gender parity across 41 states in the U.S. Via [The Connector](#), the nation's largest and most prolific directory of STEAM opportunities for K-12 engagement, NGCP's tapestry of programs make their way to educators, parents, and the youth they serve. In addition, through NGCP's research, the importance of mentors in girls' career path is essential, leading to the creation of [FabFems](#), a database connecting women working in STEM careers so they can directly spark girls' interest in STEM, dispel stereotypes, and expand girls' perceptions of their STEM career options. Through its ethos of collaboration, NGCP draws the resources of corporations, academia, governments, and nonprofits alike toward the shared goal of STEM equity. Learn more about the National Girls Collaborative and its programs at [ngcproject.org](#).

Related Links:

<https://ngcproject.org>

<https://theconnector.org>

<https://fabfems.org>

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