



# Ms. Deborah L. Wince-Smith

President, Council on Competitiveness

## Biography

Deborah L. Wince-Smith is the innovative force behind a premiere group of CEOs, university presidents and labor leaders committed to driving U.S. competitiveness. Most notably, she has spearheaded a national campaign that made innovation a top-tier national policy issue. She is recognized in the global business community as a “go to” person for strategic counsel, as exemplified by her recent appointment to the Board of Directors of the NASDAQ Stock Market.

As president of the Council on Competitiveness, Wince-Smith’s expertise in technology policy, economic development and global competition is frequently sought after by government, industry and news media.

She has more than 20 years of experience as a senior government official, including as Assistant Secretary for Technology Policy in the Department of Commerce during the first Bush administration. Most recently, she was appointed by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve as a member of the Oversight Board of the Internal Revenue Service. During the course of her career, she has testified before several committees of the U.S. House and Senate. She also serves on or chairs four Cabinet-level advisory groups, including a task force on nuclear energy for the Secretary of Energy.

Following her government tenure, Wince-Smith became active in governance of various national scientific labs. She sits on the Board of Governors for Argonne National Laboratory and the University of California President’s Council for Los Alamos and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. Wince-Smith was also a consultant for several Fortune 100 companies. Her practice focused on global competitiveness, R&D partnerships and international development agreements.

She has appeared on several international broadcast networks, including CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, and Canada’s Report on Business Television. She is regularly interviewed by major newspapers like The Washington Post and Wall Street Journal as an expert on economic, science and technology policy. Her opinion pieces have appeared in publications such as The Hill, a leading newspaper that covers Congress, and she is a regular contributor to Innovation Magazine.

Throughout her career she has been in the vanguard of the global competitiveness debate. During the Reagan Administration, Wince-Smith served as the Assistant Director for International Affairs and Competitiveness in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. She designed and negotiated the landmark 1988 Head of Government Science Technology Agreement with Japan and developed President Reagan’s 1988 Competitiveness Initiative. She later directed President George H.W. Bush’s National Technology Initiative. She began her career as a program director for the National Science Foundation from 1976-1984 where she managed U.S. research programs with Eastern European countries and U.S. universities.

Wince-Smith earned a degree in classical archaeology and graduated Magna cum Laude and Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar College. She earned her Master’s degree from King’s College, Cambridge University. In December 2006 she received an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Michigan State University. She volunteers her time on the Board of Directors of the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and is a trustee of the National Inventors Hall of Fame.