

2023



# Compete Connect

February Edition

## From the CEO's Desk



**Deborah L. Wince-Smith**  
President and CEO  
Council on Competitiveness

February is a short but wonderfully busy month. The Council co-hosted with Brazil's National Confederation of Industry (CNI) the launch of the 30<sup>th</sup> U.S.-Brazil "Innovation Immersion" — with several Council members and partners providing insights to the participants who spent a week exploring the Northeast Corridor's innovation ecosystem. For the 4<sup>th</sup> year in a row, I spoke at the Southeast Europe and East Mediterranean Conference — this year focused on Greece's economic development and sustainability journey. And just today, I provided testimony for the first hearing of the new Congress's House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, alongside Dr. Kim Budil, Director, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory — watch [here!](#)

My team and I are working with Chancellor Gary May and the University of California, Davis team to prepare for our [National Commission Phase 2 Launch Summit from March 27-28, 2023](#) (REGISTER [HERE](#)) — with an exceptional selection of speakers from our Board, Executive Committee, National Commissioners, and Commission Community, alongside two outstanding keynote speakers: the Hon. Jed Kolko, Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, and the Hon. Paul Monks, Chief Scientific Advisor, U.K. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. I strongly encourage you, and your peers, to join us in Davis.



**Dr. Gary S. May**  
Chancellor  
University of California Davis

Bio-revolution Ready to Scale — Deborah Wince-Smith's

February 2023 Forbes.com Article



“Bio-revolution Ready to Scale” captures the mind-bending innovation revolution that bio-manufacturing presents — from lab-grown steak to mushroom fabrics and dandelion tires — and what it takes to bring them from ideation in labs to pilot manufacturing and scale. The Council has called for a strategic, aggressive, and coordinated U.S. effort to capture bio-manufacturing’s potential by increasing targeted R&D, expanding testbeds and prototyping efforts to accelerate commercialization, build up a skilled workforce, and develop appropriated standards and guard-rails for biosafety and biosecurity (see our 2017 report, [Leverage](#)). The whole-of-government approach to advance biotechnology and biomanufacturing established by the Biden Administration last September presents a great step in the right direction, but countries we’re competing with also continue to advance.

Read Deborah’s full Forbes.com article [here](#).

## News

[Register for the “National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers Phase 2 Launch Summit” at UC Davis on March 27-28, 2023](#)



UC Davis Chancellor Dr. Gary May will co-host this critical event with Council CEO Deborah Wince-Smith, setting the stage for the next phase of the National Commission’s policy work.

The Summit will feature many of the initiative’s National Commissioners and longstanding members of its community of working group leaders.

In addition, the Summit will feature [The Honorable Paul Monks, Chief Scientific Advisor at the United Kingdom Department for Energy Security and Net Zero](#), and [The Honorable Jed Kolko, Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, U.S. Department of Commerce](#). Under Secretary Kolko will share his and President Biden’s and U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo’s vision for designing and funding a new place-based innovation strategy for the country.





**The Honorable Paul Monks**  
Chief Scientific Advisor  
United Kingdom Department for Energy  
Security and Net Zero



**The Honorable Jed Kolko**  
Under Secretary of Commerce  
for Economic Affairs  
U.S. Department of Commerce

The Phase 2 Launch Summit will map out the Commission's next major policy efforts around:

- The Future of Developing and Deploying Disruptive Technologies at Speed and Scale
- The Future of Sustainability
- The Future of Work and the Workforce
- The Future of Place-based Innovation

To find out more about the Summit, [visit the website](#). And [REGISTER FOR THE SUMMIT!](#)

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### **Council Chair addresses debt ceiling and navigating post-COVID financial commitments on *CNN This Morning***

In a February 6<sup>th</sup> interview, Council Chair Brian Moynihan (Chair and CEO of Bank of America) spoke of the need to raise the debt ceiling to meet the U.S. financial commitments, while maintaining that “there’s got to be an argument about how we make sure we live within our means as a country.”

Watch the full interview [here](#).



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**Council President speaks on a panel at 4th Southeast Europe and East  
Mediterranean Conference in Washington, DC about**



## Greece's economic development and sustainability

Deborah Wince-Smith joined a panel of distinguished leaders from Greece and the United States to discuss Greece's new trajectory towards rebuilding its economic base. The conference also addressed how the challenges of the pandemic — alongside the energy and inflation crises caused by Russia's invasion of the Ukraine — have put this effort to the test.

The conference — organized by Symeon Tsomokos, Founder and President, Delphi Economic Forum, and member of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils — also featured Council Distinguished Fellow Admiral James G. Foggo, Dean, Center for Maritime Strategy.



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## Council kicks off latest U.S. Brazil Innovation Immersion with CNI

Council on Competitiveness CEO Deborah Wince-Smith and EVP Chad Evans hosted a delegation of more than 35 leaders from Brazil on February 13, launching the latest in a series of long-standing, peer-to-peer innovation exchanges. The Council's event focused on providing the Brazilian leadership with a snapshot of the U.S. economy, its S&T and innovation ecosystem, and a view of key global trends. Speakers included:



- Holden Thorp, Editor-in-Chief, *Science Magazine*
- Jim Clifton, Chairman, Gallup
- Paul Skoutelas, President & CEO, American Public Transportation Association
- Charles “BB” Bris-Bois, Senior Advisor for Commercial Strategy, DARPA
- Marcio Oliveira, Assistant Vice President for Academic Technology and Innovation, University of Maryland
- Gabrielle Trebat, Senior Managing Director for Brazil & Southern Cone, McLarty Associates



### In Case You Missed It - Watch the 2022 National Competitiveness Forum on CompeteTV – Follow along on Twitter @CompeteNow

The 2022 NCF featured leaders from across the private and public sectors sharing insights on the issues critical for the Council’s 2023 agenda, including significant conversations with U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo, White House Science Advisor Dr. Arati Prabhakar, and NSF Assistant Director Erwin Gianchandani. [Check out the full NCF playlist on CompeteTV.](#)

## Member News

### Council leaders and partners co-host Summit on Healthy Longevity

Council Chair Emeritus Dr. Mehmood Khan (CEO, Hevolution Foundation) and Council National Commissioner Dr. Victor Dzau (President, National Academy of Medicine) — together with King Abdullah International Medical Research Center and the Gulf Health Council — co-hosted “The Global Roadmap for Healthy Longevity: Enabling Longer, Healthier Lives in the Gulf” summit on February 19 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

“There are vast opportunities to be found in global aging if we sufficiently prepare our societies for the demographic shift and make investments that promote health, well-being, and one’s sense of purpose,” commented Dr. Victor Dzau.

This past December, Drs. Khan and Dzau sat down to discuss the innovation and competitiveness implications of healthy aging in a panel during the Council’s 2022 National Competitiveness Forum (click [here](#) to watch).





**Dr. Mehmood Khan**  
CEO  
Hevolution Foundation  
Council Chair Emeritus



**Dr. Victor Dzau**  
President  
National Academy of Medicine  
Council National Commissioner

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**Council members and partners join the  
National Academy of Engineers  
Class of 2023**

Dr. Gregory Nathaniel Washington, Council Member and George Mason University President, along with Dr. Laurie Locascio, NIST Director and former Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative member, have been elected as part of the National Academy of Engineering's Class of 2023.

Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education, including, where appropriate, significant contributions to the engineering literature.

See the full list of 106 new members and 18 international members [here](#).



**Dr. Gregory Nathaniel Washington**  
President  
George Mason University  
Council Member



**Dr. Laurie Locascio**  
Director  
National Institute of Standards and  
Technology  
Former Technology Leadership &  
Strategy Initiative Member

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**11 of the 20 top U.S. colleges will be led by women  
and/or people of color by next fall**

Women or people of color will lead more than half of the top U.S. colleges by Fall 2024 (as ranked by Forbes) — including Council members: University of Pennsylvania President Elizabeth Magill, and University of California, San-Diego Chancellor Dr. Pradeep Khosla.

Read more [here](#).

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**Council University members among those producing the highest number of Fulbright  
students and Fulbright scholars**

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) has recognized more than 170 higher education institutions from across the United States that have the highest number of accepted applicants to the Fulbright U.S. Student and Fulbright U.S. Scholar Programs for 2022-2023.

Several Council Members have made this distinguished list, including: Georgetown University, Bowdoin College, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Michigan, Arizona State University, and Purdue University.

Read more [here](#).

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**Clemson University to launch nation's first Bachelor of Science program  
in automotive engineering**

The new program solidifies Clemson's position as the premier University for automotive engineering research and education in the Southeast and beyond and aims to meet the rapidly changing needs of an industry that is starting to trade the internal combustion engine for batteries and human drivers for self-driving cars.

"Clemson University will continue to lead the way for automotive engineering," said Council Executive Committee Member and Clemson University President Jim Clements. "We are at the heart of the Southeast's auto industry, and as South Carolina's leading provider of engineering talent, Clemson is uniquely positioned to launch the nation's first Bachelor of Science degree in automotive engineering. Through working in tandem with industry, state and federal partners, we are able to shape the future of mobility and create a robust workforce."

Read more [here](#).

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## **NEW TO THE COMMUNITY**

**The Council is pleased to announce and welcome  
our new members joining this February:**





**Mr. David T. Danielson**  
Managing Director  
Breakthrough Energy  
Ventures  
National Commission



**Mr. Jeff Peoples**  
President & CEO  
Alabama Power Company  
National Commission



**Dr. Santa J. Ono**  
President  
University of Michigan  
National Commission



**Mr. Mike Freeman**  
CEO & General Manager  
Innosphere Ventures  
General Membership



**Mr. Rehan Chaudri**  
Chairman  
Altan Partners LLC  
General Membership

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### **Remembering University of Wisconsin-Madison Chancellor Dr. Rebecca Blank**

Rebecca M. Blank, an economist and educator who served in high-level U.S. government and academic positions and, for nine years, as chancellor of the University of Wisconsin–Madison, died of cancer Feb. 17 near Madison, Wisconsin. She was 67.

During her tenure at UW–Madison, from 2013–2022, Blank focused on improving educational outcomes and the student experience, further elevating the university’s world-class faculty and placing the university on firm financial footing through a combination of private fundraising and inventive strategies. She was known for her direct style, quick analysis and dry sense of humor, all while leading one of the country’s top public research universities through a complex political period and a devastating global pandemic.

The Council Community will remember her as an exceptional leader, an outstanding educator and a trusted friend, who will be deeply missed by her peers.





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