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# Demystifying the Academic Research Enterprise

## Becoming a Successful Scholar in a Complex and Competitive Environment

By: Kelvin K. Droegemeier

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## Author Biography

Dr. Kelvin K. Droegemeier is Professor of Atmospheric Science and Special Advisor to the Chancellor for Science and Policy at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Formerly, he was Regents' Professor of Meteorology, Roger and Sherry Teigen Presidential Professor, and Weathernews Chair at the University of Oklahoma, where he served for nearly a decade as vice president for research. He cofounded and directed one of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) first eleven Science and Technology Centers and cofounded and served as deputy director of an NSF Engineering Research Center. In 2003, Dr. Droegemeier was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed in 2004 by the US Senate for a six-year term on the National Science Board, the governing body of NSF that also provides science policy guidance to the president and Congress. He was renominated by President Barack Obama and again confirmed by the Senate, serving a second six-year term, the last four years as vice-chairman. He has testified before Congress on numerous occasions on topics ranging from the importance of science and engineering research to STEM education and federal investments in research and development.

In 2017, Dr. Droegemeier was appointed by Governor Mary Fallin as Oklahoma's fourth Cabinet Secretary of Science and Technology. In 2018, he was nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve as Director of The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and Science Advisor to the President. He was confirmed by the US Senate and served from 2019 until 2021. As OSTP director, he coordinated planning, prioritization, and policymaking for more than two dozen federal agencies that conduct or support research and development with combined budgets of more than \$130 billion. While at OSTP, he also served for two and a half months as acting director of NSF.

Dr. Droegemeier is a fellow of the American Meteorological Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He cofounded a private company and has served on and chaired numerous national boards and committees. Dr. Droegemeier has generated over \$40 million in external research funding, authoring or coauthoring more than eighty refereed journal articles and over two hundred conference publications. His research interests lie in thunderstorm dynamics and predictability, variational data assimilation, mesoscale dynamics, computational fluid dynamics, massively parallel computing, and aviation weather.

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