



David E. Chesebrough, Ed. D.

President and CEO COSI Columbus

Dr. Chesebrough is the President and Chief Executive Officer of COSI in Columbus, Ohio and began his leadership of COSI in April 2006. In his role as President, he has led the efforts of the COSI team, Board of Trustees, community supporters and partners to re-imagine the organization as a 21st century science, technology and research rich “center of science.” Dr. Chesebrough has led the effort to establish strategic partnerships with The Ohio State University, Battelle Memorial Institute, TechColumbus and others resulting in expanded opportunities for all to explore science, technology, engineering, math, and health advancements in Central Ohio to encourage and inspire youth to pursue careers in these areas. This internationally acclaimed model is now anchored by one-of-a-kind partnerships that have integrated into the public and educational experiences including an operating HDTV studio (WOSU@COSI), research labs (OSU’s Labs in Life@COSI), Center of Research & Evaluation@COSI, the gallery and programs of the Columbus Historical Society, and the operations of Battelle Memorial Institute’s national STEM Innovation Network among others.

Through partnerships and experiences enhanced by interactions with real science, scientists, engineers, and researchers COSI has continually expanded its positive impact over the last six years. As a major lifelong learning institution, COSI is now the resource and gathering place for over one million people each year. COSI serves as a science center leader as noted by being named the #1 Science Center in the country for families by *Parents* magazine, winning a Leading Edge Award for Innovation among science centers worldwide, and being chosen to host the international conference for the world’s leading science center association in 2012.

Prior to joining COSI, Dr. Chesebrough was President & CEO of the Buffalo Museum of Science for over five years where he led the rejuvenation of the institution, the development of its innovative strategic plan, and the first investments into its implementation. From 1995-2000, Dr. Chesebrough served five years as Executive Director at the Roberson Museum and Science Center in Binghamton, New York where he raised five million dollars to jump-start its rejuvenation. Earlier in his career, Dr. Chesebrough was part of the management team that designed, fundraised for, built, and opened the Carnegie Science Center where he spent eight years in various educational and development leadership positions. He was a former educator and administrator at the secondary and collegiate level for 15 years prior to switching to the museum field in 1987. He also served as an educational curriculum developer and consultant to Apple Computer, Microsoft, and other computer software companies during that time.

In 2003, the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC), the international organization representing science centers around the world, asked Dr. Chesebrough to help stimulate and lead the discussion about new science center models. In concert with other national and international science center and free-choice learning experts and leaders, he has been involved continuously in this effort through workshops, writings, and online forums. He continues this work through both ASTC and COSI Columbus. In 2007, Chesebrough was elected to the ASTC Board of Directors. Currently, he serves as co-chair of ASTC's Strategic Impact and Communications task force and is a member of ASTC's Finance Committee. He is on the board of Nationwide Children's Research Institute (a component of Nationwide Children's Hospital) and served on the Creative Columbus Policy Commission and 2012 Bicentennial Commission. Chesebrough is an Arts & Sciences Faculty Fellow at The Ohio State University.

Dr. Chesebrough completed his doctoral research at Duquesne University at Pittsburgh. His nationally noted research focused on Museum-Community Partnerships, was cosponsored by the American Association of Museums and has led to many professional activities tapping his expertise on partnerships. He graduated from the University of Pittsburgh completing his bachelor's and master's degrees in physics, math, and science education.

He has authored numerous books, feature stories, articles, newspaper columns, and publications in the science center, museum, computer, education and environmental fields. Dr. Chesebrough has served on various local, state, and national boards and advisories in education, museum, public broadcasting, and tourism capacities for over 30 years.