

**Job Title:** Chief Science Officer and Distinguished Laboratory Fellow

**Education:** PhD, physical organic chemistry, University of Delaware; BA, chemistry and mathematics, Mount Holyoke College

**Company Name:** Idaho National Laboratory

**Industry:** Energy Research and Development

**Company CEO:** Dr. Mark Peters

**Company Headquarters Location:** Idaho Falls, Idaho

**Number of Employees:** 4,500

**Words you live by:** Believe in yourself.

**Personal Philosophy:** Reach for your goals.

**What book are you reading:** *Science in the Service of Mankind* by George A.W. Boehm and Alex Groner

**What was your first job:** delivered newspapers by bicycle on my own paper route the age of ten

**Favorite charity:** United Way

**Interests:** Science & engineering societies (volunteer in leadership roles), sports (tennis, skiing, hiking), mentoring, and traveling

**Family:** married (husband, chemical engineer), daughter and son-in-law (biochemist and chemist, respectively), granddaughter, and grandson



## Elevating Women in Science

My personal essay has the overarching theme of mentoring and elevating professional women in the science and engineering fields. Having broken a number of glass ceilings during my professional career, it has been my motto to keep opportunities open for other women and to extend a helping hand.

It was alarming to be the “first woman” in a number of impactful moments during my career:

- I received my PhD in physical organic chemistry in 1981 from the University of Delaware; I was the first woman to ever do so and the first woman to have successfully passed the rigorous organic chemistry cumulative exam process leading to the PhD degree.
- I joined ARCO Chemical Company, then a division of Atlantic Richfield, in 1981, and was the first woman PhD industrial chemist hired by the company. I became the first woman science & engineering manager in 1987 and senior technical advisor in 1994, all at ARCO Chemical Company.
- I was the first woman recipient of the Philadelphia Catalysis Club Award in 1997.
- I was the first woman recipient of the Industrial Chemistry & Engineering, North American Catalysis Award in 2015.
- I was the first woman recipient of the American Chemical Society Energy & Fuels Distinguished Researcher Award in 2019.

In response to these experiences, I have made a concerted effort to reach out to fellow science and engineering women to make improvements and provide opportunities. The following are examples of my activities, past and present:

- Founded in 1982 and chaired the ARCO Women’s Management Association
- Active in the American Chemical Society’s Women’s Chemist Committee throughout my membership, 1976–present
- Active in the Girl Scouts received the Take the Lead in Science and Technology Award For Outstanding Leadership from the Girl Scouts of Pennsylvania, 1993
- Established a new capability—transient kinetics—at Idaho National Laboratory in 2015, and hired a woman engineer to lead this capability
- Engage in Idaho National Laboratory’s Women in Leadership Group
- Actively mentor several of Idaho National Laboratory’s women scientists and engineers

It is my charter to continue to be a leader for women in the science and engineering fields.

In closing, I take great pride on a personal level in having raised a bright and caring daughter, who received a biochemistry degree from Cornell University and is now working toward the discovery of ovarian and other cancer fighting drugs in the pharmaceutical industry.