



Kelvin K. Droegemeier selected to lead the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy

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Kelvin K. Droegemeier was selected to lead the critical White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy, an organization that both advises the current president on scientific issues as well as organizes the US scientific policy and strategy. This announcement comes as a relief for the american scientific community, after nearly 600 days without director nominated for the OSTP. If confirmed by the Senate, the OSTP will be headed by a respected meteorologist whose skills as a scientist as well as an experienced science policy expert are unanimously recognized. John Holdren, former science adviser to President Barack Obama, estimates the choice of President Trump as a "good pick", expecting "[he will be] defending the R&D budget and climate change research in particular."

Kelvin K. Droegemeier has served as the Vice-President for Research at Oklahoma University (OU) in Norman since 2009; he graduated with a PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Meteorologist, he was a founder (in 1989) and then director (1994 - 2006) of the NSF Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms, a world-leading institution for numerical modelling of storms. He was a member of the NSF National Science Board under presidents G.W. Bush and B. Obama as an expert in high performance computing and was elected vice-president of the Board in 2012. Since April 2017, he has been Secretary for Science and Technology under the State Governor, Mary Fallin [R].

He created in 2003 his weather prediction company aimed at civilian aviation, Weather Decision Technologies, Inc., following a partnership with American Airlines. As the VP Research of Oklahoma University, Kelvin Droegemeier manages an academic consortium of 30 universities from 12 States of the US' central and southern plains for promoting cooperation on food and energy production as well as water quality. He is one of the pillars of the National Environmental Simulation and Testing Facility, a one-of-a-kind full-scale weather simulation center project.



During a meet-up in May 2017 with the then Consul General of France in Houston, Mr Sujiro Seam, and the consulate's scientific attaché, Dr Kelvin Droegemeier welcomed favourably the offers for collaboration with France in climate and weather sciences, that are, to use his own words "the DNA of Oklahoma University".

For more information:

<https://twitter.com/kdroege>

<http://kkd.ou.edu/>

<http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2018/07/trump-s-pick-head-white-house-science-office-gets-good-reviews>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-05862-y>

Redactors :

Alain Mermet, Science attaché, and Laurent Pelliser, Deputy science attaché at the Consulate general of France in Houston