Cartier Esham has over 20 years' experience in policy and advocacy. She currently serves as the Chief Scientific Officer at the Biotechnology Innovation Organization (BIO). In this role, Dr. Esham manages and directs BIO's policy development, advocacy, research and educational initiatives for BIO's life science, food and environment science and regulatory teams, the infectious disease and emerging science team, the industry analysis and research team and the emerging companies team.

Prior to joining BIO, Dr. Esham was a Vice President and Director of Research at Dutko Worldwide, a private consulting firm in Washington D.C., where she worked on a variety of environmental, education, science, technology, and health care related issues on the federal, state, and local levels. Dr. Esham has a Ph.D. in Microbiology from the University of Georgia, a Master's degree in Marine Biology from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Kentucky.