

Dr. Celia Merzbacher is the Executive Director of the Quantum Economic Development Consortium (QED-C), a global consortium of nearly 250 stakeholders from industry, academia and government that aims to grow the quantum industry and associated supply chain. Dr. Merzbacher has two decades of experience leading technology initiatives and partnerships. Previously, she was Vice President for Innovative Partnerships at the Semiconductor Research Corporation, a consortium of the semiconductor industry. In 2003-2008, she was Assistant Director for Technology R&D in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy where she led the multi-agency National Nanotechnology Initiative. She also served as Executive Director of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST). Dr. Merzbacher is a Fellow of the AAAS and serves on the Innovation Policy Forum of the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM). She advises the Krach Institute for Tech Diplomacy at Purdue University and several university centers and institutes focused on quantum. She is past chair of the NASEM National Materials and Manufacturing Board and was on the Board of Directors of the American National Standards Institute.

Dr. Merzbacher began her career as a research scientist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, where her research in optical materials led to numerous scientific publications and six patents. Dr. Merzbacher received her undergraduate degree from Brown University and her Master of Science and PhD degrees from the Pennsylvania State University in geochemistry and mineralogy.