

## **Lynne E. Parker, Ph.D.**

*Former White House AI Policy Leader, Robotics Pioneer,  
and Higher Education Leader*



**Dr. Lynne E. Parker** is a globally recognized leader in artificial intelligence (AI) and robotics, renowned for her pioneering work in multi-robot systems and transformative contributions to U.S. AI policy. Her career spans academia, research, and public service. At the White House, she served under three Presidential Administrations as Principal Deputy Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Deputy U.S. Chief Technology Officer, Founding Director of the National AI Initiative, and Co-Chair of the National AI Research Resource Task Force. She has shaped national AI policies spanning research, governance, education, workforce training, and international collaboration.

Earlier, as Division Director of Information and Intelligent Systems at the National Science Foundation, she managed a multi-million-dollar AI research portfolio and led the development of the first National AI Research and Development (R&D) Strategic Plan.

In academia, Dr. Parker is Associate Vice Chancellor Emerita and Founding Director of the AI Tennessee Initiative at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UT), where she worked to position UT and Tennessee as leaders in the data-intensive knowledge economy. She was appointed by the Tennessee Governor to the State's AI Advisory Council to guide AI education and adoption.

A Knoxville native, Dr. Parker earned her B.S. from Tennessee Technological University, M.S. from UT, and Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, all in computer science. Her dissertation on ALLIANCE, a distributed architecture for multi-robot cooperation, remains a seminal contribution to the field.

She began her research career at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, advancing to Distinguished R&D Staff Member and Group Leader, specializing in multi-robot systems. At UT, she established the Distributed Intelligence Laboratory, where her team pioneered research in robotics, machine learning, sensor networks, and human-robot interaction. She later held academic leadership roles as Interim Dean and Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs at UT's Tickle College of Engineering.

An internationally acclaimed researcher, Dr. Parker has authored over 140 peer-reviewed papers and delivered more than 110 invited lectures across 15+ countries. Her accolades include the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, Computing Research Association's Distinguished Service Award, IEEE Robotics and Automation Society's George Saridis Leadership Award, and numerous alumni and university honors, including recognition in 2025 as a Distinguished Alumni of UT. She is a Fellow of IEEE, AAAI, and AAAS, and a Distinguished Member of ACM.