

KIMBERLY HOUCHENS

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Dr. Kimberly Houchens is a technology executive, inventor, and experienced nonprofit and academic board director. She previously served on the Sigma Xi Board of Directors (2013–2016), where she sat on the Executive Committee and Finance Committee and led the society's strategic planning process. A Sigma Xi member since 2003, she brings 23 years of engagement with the society (sorry some laps in membership dues over the years) and deep familiarity with its mission, finances, and governance.

Kim's board leadership extends beyond Sigma Xi. She served as Director on the Board of Advisory for Michigan State University's School of Packaging (2011–2014), where she guided curriculum and research strategy for one of the nation's top packaging science programs. She co-founded and served as President of the Cleveland Chapter of the Product Development Management Association (PDMA) (2003–2004), building a professional community for innovation practitioners from the ground up. She served as Co-Chairman of the Alumni Board for Michigan State University's College of Human Environment and Design (2002–2004). She has been a member of the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) since 2013, maintaining active engagement with governance best practices, fiduciary responsibility, and board effectiveness.

Kim currently serves as Director of Health and Finance Technology at Amazon (Fortune 1, \$717B), where she leads a global engineering organization building the technology that delivers health, wellness, and financial benefits to 1.5 million employees and their families across 61 countries. Her portfolio spans a \$40B+ financial benefits platform, an \$11B health benefits ecosystem, and enrollment systems processing elections for over one million U.S. employees annually. She holds 19 patents in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and engineering, and authored her organization's 3-year technical architecture vision encompassing AI strategy, claims adjudication insourcing, and system commercialization. She is an Amazon Bar Raiser, responsible for upholding hiring standards that develop the best scientific and technical talent across the company.

Prior Amazon roles include leading a 250-person packaging technology organization whose machine learning and material science innovations scaled across 12 billion shipments annually — reducing packaging weight by 38%, eliminating 1.5 million tons of waste, and generating \$1 billion in annual cost savings — and leading research science teams at AWS building software for manufacturing, healthcare, and sustainability. Before Amazon, she served as Senior Director at Walmart (Fortune 2, \$681B) leading enterprise analytics and machine learning, Global VP of R&D at O-I Glass overseeing 120 staff across 81 plants in 21 countries, VP of Global Product Development at Amcor, and CTO of Nano-Tex — a Red Herring Top 100 winner.

Kim holds a Ph.D. in Technology and Management from North Carolina State University, an M.S. in Textile Engineering from NC State, a B.S. from Michigan State University, and an Associate in Industrial Design from the Fashion Institute of Technology. Her career-long commitment to scientific research, interdisciplinary innovation, and research integrity — combined with extensive board governance experience spanning nonprofit, academic, and professional organizations — positions her to contribute meaningfully to the society's mission of enhancing the health of the research enterprise and improving the human condition through science.