

## Biographical Sketch: William S. Smith

Dr. William Smith is Vice President, ScienceWorks. Dr. Smith brings over 35 years of experience in scientific research, public service in the Executive Branch, policy experience on the Hill, and management experience in the non-profit sector. Dr. Smith obtained his PhD in Physical Chemistry from Texas A&M University in 1974, and carried out research on ozone depletion while at the University of California, Irvine. He joined the Department of Transportation to manage its research program aimed at high altitude aircraft emissions. In 1985, Dr. Smith joined the staff of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and served as the Staff Director of the Subcommittee on Space. During his 14 years as a key staff member of this Committee, he led in the development of policy and legislation to guide the space program through a dynamic and sometimes difficult period highlighted by the onset of Shuttle operations, the Challenger accident, the initiation of the Space Station program, and the Hubble Space Telescope program. Dr. Smith worked with senior managers of, not only NASA, but also NOAA, NSF, NIST, and DOE. In 2000, Dr. Smith was appointed President of the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA). As President of AURA, Dr. Smith built strong relationships with a wide variety of public and private universities in the US and in other countries such as Chile, Australia, Canada, Mexico, Spain and Japan. Dr. Smith was awarded the NASA Distinguished Service medal in 1980 for his analysis and support of operations during the final phases of the Skylab program and its ultimate re-entry.