

## Leadership Bios

**David Washburn**

*Chief Executive Officer  
MSU Research Foundation*

David Washburn is Chief Executive Officer of the MSU Research Foundation, where he leads the Foundation's work, including investment management, research funding, innovation, and early-stage venture development across Michigan. He previously served as President and CEO of the University of Tennessee Research Foundation and held leadership roles in technology commercialization at the University of Illinois. Washburn also brings experience from venture-backed software companies, including Wolfram Research and InstallShield. He serves on the Board of Directors of Cambridge Enterprise Ltd. at the University of Cambridge.

**Jeff Smith**

*Director of Research Parks  
MSU Research Foundation*

Jeff Smith is Director of Research Parks for the MSU Research Foundation, where he leads initiatives that advance research commercialization, innovation infrastructure, and technology-based economic development. He works with university, industry, and community partners to support the growth of emerging companies and strengthen innovation ecosystems. Smith is the incoming President of the Association of University Research Parks (AURP), serves on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC) Advisory Board for Redevelopment Ready Communities, and was a State of Michigan delegate to the MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program (REAP).