

Dr. Kirk Gerdes

Chief of Staff, S&T Strategic Planning and Programs, NETL

Dr. Kirk Gerdes serves as Chief of Staff for S&T Strategic Planning and Programs and oversees tactical implementation of NETL's fossil energy programmatic and partnerships activities while supporting technical and strategic planning that integrates technical mission delivery across NETL. On behalf of NETL and S&T, Dr. Gerdes has led development of the Department of Energy's Fossil Energy Roadmap and NETL's Annual Lab Plan (2018, 2019, 2020), and has supported creation and implementation of critical S&T initiatives including the Technology Maturation Planning Process, the Entrepreneurship and Innovation initiative, and a Technical Competency Assessment and Growth Initiative. Dr. Gerdes has also served as a manager on technical initiatives in Advanced Manufacturing and Petrochemicals, Solid Oxide Fuel Cells, and Methane to Carbon/Hydrogen conversion technologies.



Prior to serving as Chief of Staff, Dr. Gerdes served as a federal researcher and research group leader in solid oxide fuel cells (SOFC) at U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) from 2006 to 2015. In 2015, Dr. Gerdes transitioned to management roles as Chief of Staff to the NETL Director, Senior Technical Adviser to the NETL Director, and acting Associate Director for Materials Engineering and Manufacturing. Dr. Gerdes has served as Chief of Staff for NETL's deputy Director and Chief Research Officer since 2017.

Dr. Gerdes earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Kansas and a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Houston. Dr. Gerdes serves as an advisory board member of the Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Department at the University of Kansas since 2010, is a member of the visiting committee of the Statler College of Engineering at West Virginia University, and was a member of the 2018 class of Leadership West Virginia. Dr. Gerdes has been an author or co-author on more than 60 peer reviewed publications, and is a co-inventor on several patents covering the process for manufacture and application of solid oxide fuel cell electrocatalysts.