

Contact

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(LinkedIn)

Top Skills

Start-ups

Entrepreneurship

Dynamic Speaker

Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)

German (Limited Working)

Cantonese (Native or Bilingual)

Honors-Awards

Fulbright Specialist Program

Publications

Assessing Innovation Metrics:
McKinsey Global Survey Results

Writing Business Plans for a Life
Science Startup or Clinical Program

Climbing the Curve Quickly in
Petrochemicals

Managing the Innovation Portfolio
to Win: McKinsey Global Survey
Results

Finding the sweet spot for allocating
innovation resources

Patents

Earbud headphones that convert into
an accessory

"Earbud headphones that convert
into an accessory"

Periodic Porous and Relief
Nanostructured Articles

Vanessa Z Chan

Chief Commercialization Officer, Director of the Office of Technology Transitions at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Working Parent @poweredbyDOE

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States

Summary

Vanessa Z Chan was appointed by President Biden to serve as the Chief Commercialization Officer and Director of the Office of Technology Transitions at the U.S. Department of Energy. She reports directly to the Secretary of Energy and her department's mission is to drive private sector uptake of clean energy technologies. She currently is on a Leave of Absence from PENN where she was transforming engineering education as the Jonathan and Linda Brassington Professor of Practice and Undergraduate Chair of the Materials Science & Engineering department.

Director Chan is an innovator with over two decades of experience driving commercialization for organizations with significant R&D investments through strategy, performance management and culture change at all levels. As a former McKinsey & Company partner with an MIT Ph.D., she has helped her clients across a diverse set of industries grow at the interface of technology and business. She is an experienced Venture Board Director for Vanguard and United Technology Corporation and a board member at multiple start-ups.

Director Chan has broken many ceilings during her career. She was the first woman and the first East Asian elected partner in McKinsey's North American Chemicals practice. The first Professor of Practice to be endowed a scholarly chair in the history of Penn Engineering and the first Asian and first Professor of Practice to be appointed Undergraduate Chair for a department.

Director Chan is also dynamic speaker who gave PENN's SEAS Commencement Address in 2018 and again in 2021. She inspires people & organizations to innovate, to reframe failure and is a well regarded keynote speaker.

Experience

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Chief Commercialization Officer and Director of the Office of Technology Transitions

January 2021 - Present (2 years 8 months)

The CCO and Director of OTT is responsible for driving private sector uptake of clean energy technology and is the steward of commercialization activities across the DOE. This includes driving commercial impact from DOE's 17 National Laboratories, and the Department's other research and production facilities across the country so that taxpayer-funded discoveries happening at our world-class facilities are making their way out of the labs and into the commercial marketplace. In addition, OTT supports the activation of the \$23T in the private sector to help bring the nation's technologies to market.

University of Pennsylvania

4 years

Jonathan and Linda Brassington Professor of Practice in Innovation & Entrepreneurship

September 2019 - January 2021 (1 year 5 months)

First non-tenured, non-research professor endowed a scholarly chair at PENN Engineering.

Undergraduate Chair, Materials Science and Engineering

January 2018 - January 2021 (3 years 1 month)

Only woman, only Asian on the SEAS Undergraduate Academic Council (UAC) whose mandate is to shape the curriculum and advising of our undergraduate engineering students.

Professor of Practice

September 2017 - January 2021 (3 years 5 months)

Executive Committee Member

2017 - January 2021 (4 years)

Various leadership positions at Penn including:

-Executive Committee Member of PENN Health Tech (JV between Penn Engineering, Penn School of Medicine and Wharton) to mobilize innovations from Penn to the market, 2017-2021

-Executive Committee Member of the PENN Forum for Women Faculty 2019-2021

-Executive Committee Member of PENN Venture Innovation Lab 2020-2021

Vanguard

Independent Venture Board Director

May 2019 - January 2021 (1 year 9 months)

Decision making board that shapes the future direction for Vanguard by exploring new business models and ventures that push beyond near-term priorities for their \$6 Trillion Assets Under Management.

Percepta

Member Of The Board Of Advisors

May 2019 - January 2021 (1 year 9 months)

Percepta develops Ethical AI to prevent shoplifting.

Delaware Innovation Space

Entrepreneurial Advisory Council Member

January 2019 - January 2021 (2 years 1 month)

Public-private partnership between the State of Delaware, DuPont and the University of Delaware to accelerate innovation in the Greater Delaware Valley

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Oversight Committee Member for the PA Pediatric Medical Device Consortia

2019 - January 2021 (2 years)

ChargeItSpot

Member Of The Board Of Advisors

2017 - January 2021 (4 years)

Robin Hood Ventures

Partner

2015 - January 2021 (6 years)

One of the largest angel investment groups in the Mid-Atlantic Region that invests in early-stage startups ranging from Materials Sciences, Medical Devices, Data Analytics, Energy and Consumer Products

United Technologies

Founding Member of the Innovation and Business Development Council Advisory Board

2015 - 2018 (3 years)

Hartford, Connecticut Area

re.design
Founder & Chief Designer
2015 - 2017 (2 years)
www.redesign.studio

McKinsey & Company

Partner
January 2002 - January 2015 (13 years 1 month)
NYC (2002-2005), Philadelphia (2006-2015)

*Senior External Advisor (2015-2016) to support McKinsey's service to core clients while launching re.design

*Co-head of the North American Innovation Practice (2013-2015), Consultant (2002-2012)

*First woman to be elected partner in the NA Chemicals practice

*Co-founder of McKinsey's Philadelphia Office (2006-2015) responsible for the connectivity and culture agenda, resulting in PHL still ranked as one of the "happiest" offices in the firm

University of Ulm

Alexander von Humboldt Post-Doctoral Fellow
November 1999 - November 2001 (2 years 1 month)
Ulm, Germany

Awarded NSF and Alexander von Humboldt fellowships to conduct nanotechnology research.

IBM

Visiting Research Scientist
June 1996 - August 2000 (4 years 3 months)
San Jose, CA

Multiple research trips to IBM during my Ph.D. to conduct experiments at their facilities

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Materials Science and Engineering

University of Pennsylvania
Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering

Island School

A Levels, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry and English Literature