

TESS DeBLANC-KNOWLES

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Tess serves as Special Assistant to the Director for Artificial Intelligence, where she oversees NSF's implementation of the recent Executive Order on AI and works across the agency to facilitate collaboration on AI initiatives. In addition, she holds the position of Strategic Advisor for Technology Policy and Strategy within the Foundation's new directorate for Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships.



She recently concluded a two-year assignment as Senior Policy Advisor to the National AI Initiative Office of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). While at OSTP, she led the National AI Initiative Office's policy efforts to strengthen the AI innovation ecosystem and co-chaired the National AI Research Resource Task Force. She also led the development of the National Strategy to Advance Privacy Preserving Data Sharing and Analytics and the National AI Research and Development Strategic Plan: 2023 Update. Before joining NSF, Tess served as Director for Research and Analysis at the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence (NSCAI). She has also spent time as Chief of Staff at the Atlantic Council, at U.S. Special Operations Command, and in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction.