

David Long
Candidate for Director for Strategic Integration

“A better world through a systems approach.” As INCOSE continues to advance guided by this inspiring vision, we have a strong foundation upon which to build. Over 30 years of committed effort has developed a worldwide network of individuals passionate about the practice of systems engineering. Our members collaborate in a rich technical organization advancing the body of knowledge as reflected in the *SE Handbook*, SEBoK, and a library of technical products. Experts from across the systems domain contributed rich insights into future challenges plotting a path forward as reflected in *Systems Engineering Vision 2035* and the Future of Systems Engineering (FuSE) initiative.



But we cannot be satisfied with where we stand today. We must think systemically and define a new strategic plan addressing both the evolution of systems engineering and the evolution of INCOSE to better meet the needs of our members, our discipline, and the greater community of stakeholders.

INCOSE must continue to work on the technical discipline itself – to establish our foundational underpinnings, embrace the digital transformation, improve the state of the practice, and advance the state of the art. Doing so requires that we continue to foster, support, and connect our internal efforts while more effectively engaging with other professional societies and academic institutions to leverage their insights and approaches. The pandemic accelerated investment in our IT infrastructure and a new mindset of virtual collaboration. We must continue to advance these areas as we create, broker, and communicate systems knowledge globally to meet the needs of a changing world.

In parallel, we must advance INCOSE itself maintaining a focus on value to our members. Over the past five years, INCOSE has increasingly complemented the knowledge and skills of its passionate volunteers with paid professional staff. We have reached a point in our journey where we must thoughtfully incorporate a paid Executive Director / CEO working in concert with our international volunteer leadership. Successfully navigating this change requires thoughtful evolution of our roles, responsibilities, and approaches leveraging our strengths and remaining true to our values while embracing the new capabilities and expertise we seek.

The journey ahead promises to be challenging and rewarding. A strategic and systemic approach is key to success. We should expect nothing less as we strive for “a better world through a systems approach.”

Bio

An INCOSE Fellow and Expert Systems Engineering Professional (ESEP), David Long is a former president (2014 & 2015) of INCOSE. David has served INCOSE since 1997 including a term as the Washington Metropolitan Area chapter president and international roles including Member Board Chair, Director for Communications, Director for Strategy, and coach in the Technical Leadership Institute. In 2006, David received the INCOSE Founders Award in recognition of his many contributions to the organization.

David has spent 30 years helping organizations increase their systems engineering proficiency while simultaneously working to advance the state of the art. David was the founder and president of Vitech where he led development of innovative, industry-leading methods and software to engineer next-generation systems. He co-authored *A Primer for Model-Based Systems Engineering* and is a renowned speaker delivering keynotes and workshops addressing introductory systems engineering, the value of systems engineering and systems engineers, the advanced application of MBSE, digital engineering, organizational change, and the future of engineering systems.