

Kenneth Ford is Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Institute for Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC) — a not-for-profit research institute located in Pensacola, Florida with world-class scientists and engineers investigating a broad range of topics related to building technological systems aimed at amplifying and extending human cognitive and perceptual capacities. Dr. Ford is the author of hundreds of scientific papers and six books. Dr. Ford's research interests include: artificial intelligence, cognitive science, human-centered computing, and entrepreneurship in government and academia. Dr. Ford received his Ph.D. in computer science from Tulane University. He is Emeritus Editor-in-Chief of AAAI/MIT Press and has been involved in the editing of several journals. Dr. Ford is a Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, a charter Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, a member of the Association for Computing Machinery, the IEEE Computer Society, and the National Association of Scholars. Dr. Ford has received many awards and honors including the Doctor Honoris Causas from the University of Bordeaux in 2005 and the Robert S. Englemore Memorial Award for his work in artificial intelligence (AI) in 2008. In 2012, Tulane University named Dr. Ford its Outstanding Alumnus in the School of Science and Engineering. In 2015, Dr. Ford was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence and he was elected as Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

In 1997, Dr. Ford was asked by NASA to develop the Center of Excellence in Information Technology at the Ames Research Center in Silicon Valley. He served as Associate Center Director and Director of the Center and was awarded the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal in 1999. That same year, he returned to private life and to the IHMC. Nominated by President George W. Bush (in 2002) and confirmed by the United States Senate (in 2003), Dr. Ford served on the National Science Board—the governing board of the National Science Foundation where he played an important role in advising the President and Congress on science policy issues. In 2005, Dr. Ford was appointed and sworn in as a member of the Air Force Science Advisory Board. In 2007, Dr. Ford became a member of the NASA Advisory Council and he served as Chairman from 2008 to 2011. He was awarded NASA's Distinguished Public Service Medal in 2010. In 2012, Dr. Ford was named to a two-year term on the Defense Science Board.