



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Dr. Kenneth Olden Joins National Environmental Education Foundation Board of Trustees

WASHINGTON—The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) this month welcomes its newest board member, Dr. Kenneth Olden, PhD, ScD, LHD, chairman of the [Avon Foundation Scientific Advisory Board](#) and founding dean of the [City University of New York School of Public Health](#).

Dr. Olden joins a distinguished group from the fields of academia, government, business and nonprofits as members of NEEF's board.

Olden has been a long-time supporter of the Foundation. He was instrumental in the development of NEEF's Health & Environment Program, which advances environmental knowledge among health professionals to improve the public's health with a special emphasis on children and underserved population. His support led to NEEF's [Pediatric Asthma Initiative](#), a program that seeks to integrate environmental management of asthma into pediatric medical and nursing education and practice.

"Dr. Olden enriches the board with his experience and his perspective. He will play a valuable role ensuring all NEEF environmental education programs recognize the vital connection between the environment and human health," said Arthur Gibson, chairman of NEEF's Board of Trustees. "The Foundation has already benefitted from his support and enthusiasm for our Health & Environment Program and that will only grow now that he is a part of our Board."

From 1991-2005, Olden directed the [National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences](#) and the National Toxicology Program at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He was the first African American to become director of one of the NIH institutes. In 2005, he returned full time to his research position as chief of The Metastasis Group in the Laboratory of Molecular Carcinogenesis at the NIEHS, which he also held while director. He held the position of Yerby visiting professor at the Harvard School of Public Health for the academic year 2006-2007 and is now founding dean of the School of Public Health at the City University of New York.

"He is a real leader," said Leyla Erk McCurdy, senior director of NEEF's Health and Environment Program. "As director of NIEHS, he made that organization into one that really cares about underserved communities. He worked to build the capacity of nonprofits to help children and others impacted by environmental disparities."

He received the PhD degree in cell biology and biochemistry from Temple University in 1970 and is the recipient of six honorary doctorate degrees. He was a postdoctoral fellow and instructor in the Physiology department at the Harvard University Medical School from 1970 to 1974. From 1974-1979, he was a researcher in the laboratory of molecular biology in the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). In 1977, he became the first African American

to be awarded tenure and the rank of independent investigator at the NIH. From 1979-1991, he held several positions at the Howard University Cancer Center, including director, professor and chairman of the Department of Oncology.

Olden's honors and awards are numerous. In 1991, President George H. W. Bush appointed him to membership on the National Cancer Advisory Board. President William J. Clinton selected him to receive the Presidential Distinguished Executive Rank Award five years later and the Presidential Meritorious Executive Rank Award in 1991.

Olden will be welcomed at NEEF's biannual board meeting on May 12.

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Knowledge to Live By

The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change.

NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs -- Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge® and Health & Environment -- we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit www.neefusa.org.