



Cheryl A. Oldham

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Cheryl Oldham is vice president of the U.S. Forum for Policy Innovation and vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW). ICW is the education and workforce nonprofit, nonpartisan, 501(c)3 affiliate of the Chamber. As vice president, Oldham manages the work of ICW and advances policy positions and promotes public-private partnerships to ensure that businesses remain competitive in a global economy.

Oldham has more than 15 years of experience in public policy development and implementation as well as in project management and government relations. Before assuming her current position, she worked as an independent consultant in both federal relations and public affairs. Her previous experience includes serving for 8 years in President George W. Bush's administration. In July 2008, the president designated Oldham to be acting assistant secretary for postsecondary education while also serving as chief of staff to the under secretary of education. The Office of the Under Secretary was responsible for implementing the work of the secretary of education's Commission on the Future of Higher Education and coordinated policies and programs related to vocational and adult education, postsecondary education, and federal student aid. As chief of staff, Oldham was the senior advisor on policy and strategy and oversaw the coordination of the programs and policies for which the office was responsible.

In September 2005, the secretary of education appointed Oldham to be executive director of the Commission on the Future of Higher Education. The commission was the first of its kind to look at needed reforms in higher education related to accessibility, affordability, and accountability.

Oldham began her career working in the Texas Office of State-Federal Relations in Washington, D.C., handling policy matters under the umbrella of health and human services. She then served in the White House as deputy associate director in the Office of Presidential Personnel and as associate director in the Office of Cabinet Affairs before moving to the Department of Education as White House Liaison in January 2003.

Oldham received her Juris Doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law and her Bachelor of Arts from Texas Christian University. She resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband, Jeff, and two sons, Jeffrey Jr. and Dylan.



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