Kristen (Kris) Amundson, is the executive director of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE). She came to that position with more than two decades of experience in education as a policy maker and communicator.

Prior to joining NASBE, she served as the senior vice president for external affairs at Education Sector, an independent education think tank. She worked with policymakers, donors, and the media to communicate the organization’s policy priorities.

Amundson represented the 44th District in Virginia's General Assembly from 1999 to 2009. She was a member of Virginia's P–16 Council and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) and was active in SREB's Adolescent Literacy Committee.

Prior to joining the Virginia General Assembly, Amundson served for nearly a decade on the Fairfax County, Va., School Board, including two years as its chairwoman. It was during that period that the school system made the transition to one of the most diverse school systems in the country. Amundson was the leading advocate for bringing the International Baccalaureate program to the county. Amundson is the co-founder of La BECA (Bringing Education, Compassion, and Assistance) Women's Scholarship Foundation.

She taught English and speech in Minnesota and Maryland. Today, Amundson also writes about education topics ranging from accountability to parent involvement in education and increasing civic involvement. Her work has been published in the Washington Post, the Richmond Times-Dispatch, the American School Board Journal, and the Roanoke Times, among others.

The National Association of State Boards of Education is the only national organization giving voice and adding value to the nation’s State Boards of Education. A non-profit organization founded in 1958, NASBE works to strengthen state leadership in educational policymaking, promote excellence in the education of all students, advocate equality of access to educational opportunity, and assure continued citizen support for public education.

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