



Amy Smith drilling a well with community partner John Manu. New Longoro, Ghana.

*“D-Lab seeks to change the paradigm of development that sees people living in poverty as needy and vulnerable to one that sees them as capable and creative innovators able to develop the technologies that will improve their lives and livelihoods.”*

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

[d-lab.mit.edu](http://d-lab.mit.edu)

## Amy Smith SM, ME '95

### Founding Director, MIT D-Lab

### Senior Lecturer, Mechanical Engineering

#### PROFILE

- Founding Director of MIT D-Lab, a highly regarded education, research and development, and international development program with 30+ staff, enrollment of ~200 students annually; creator of 10 MIT courses focusing on technology design, international development, and humanitarian innovation; inventor and community organizer committed to poverty alleviation.

#### KEY INITIATIVES

- Director, International Development Innovation Network (USAID, HESN)
- Founder, International Development Design Summit
- Co-Founder, with the Public Service Center, of the MIT IDEAS Global Challenge
- Founder, Rethink Relief conference
- Originator of the Creative Capacity Building methodology

#### SELECTED INVENTIONS

- Fuel from the Fields: Low-cost cooking fuel made from agricultural waste, 2002
- Low-cost field water testing equipment, 2001
- Electricity-free phase-change incubator for laboratory diagnostics, 1998
- Screenless Hammermill, 1995

#### SELECTED AWARDS

- J-WAFS Solutions Commercialization Grant, 2016
- Women of the Harvard Club Boston's Most Influential Women Award, 2013
- Olympus Innovation Award, 2011
- Time Magazine 100 Most Influential People, 2010
- Business Week World's Most Influential Designers, 2010
- Popular Mechanics Breakthrough Leadership Award, 2008
- MacArthur Fellowship, 2005
- Lemelson-MIT Student Prize for Inventiveness, 2000
- JFK Peace Corps Volunteer of the Year: Africa Region, 1988

#### COLLABORATIONS & AFFILIATIONS

- Organizer, NCI/NSF Sustainable Visions Teaching Lab, 2011–present
- Board of Advisors, Popular Mechanics, 2008–present
- Member, MIT Hobby Shop Committee, 2008–present
- Co-Founder and Advisor, MIT International Development Initiative, 2007–present
- Advisor, Mechanical Engineering 2-A Sustainability Track, 2006–present
- Member, MIT Energy Initiative Educational Task Force, 2006–2008

#### EDUCATION

- SB, SM, ME in Mechanical Engineering from MIT