PROGRAM

2015 CAHSI SUMMIT
Building a Diverse and Innovative Workforce

September 10-12, 2015
Caribe Hilton
San Juan, Puerto Rico
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**THURSDAY | SEPTEMBER 10TH**

Dinner: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm  
An Evening with the CAHSI Community  
Room: San Cristobal ABCD  
Plenary Speaker: Mary Fernandez, Mentor-Net

**FRIDAY | SEPTEMBER 11th**

Breakfast: 7:00 am – 8:00 am  
Room: San Geronimo Ballroom/Foyer C

Keynote

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<td>Room</td>
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<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Barbara McAllister, Deputy Director, Diversity in Technology Initiative</td>
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<td>Title</td>
<td>Small Actions. Big Change.</td>
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Little things can make a big difference when you develop the habit of writing clear and measurable goals to work towards. In this session, Barbara will share her engineering journey and the joy she has in growing the next generation of diverse innovators. She will speak to her passion for advancing STEM practices by sharing her belief in STEM’s ability to fuel innovation, empower women and underserved youth, and transform lives. She will also provide insight into the progression of Intel’s recent $300M commitment to diversity and inclusion with updates on the journey and the momentum behind this tech industry movement.

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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Applying “Systems Thinking” and “Human Thinking” to Manage Career Growth</td>
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| Presenters   | Jamika Burge, Ph.D., Smarter Balance, University of California at Los Angeles  
Manuel Perez Quiñonez, Ph.D., University of Carolina at Charlotte  
Alan Bivens, Ph.D., IBM |
| Audience     | Students |
Building a Diverse and Innovative Workforce

The session will provide career guidance for minorities in computing. Participants will broaden their thinking about solving technical problems by learning how to apply ‘systems thinking’ to their career development. This workshop will also include a ‘human thinking’ track, which will focus on topics like emotional intelligence, implicit bias, and stereotype threat, in the context of professional development.

Time: 9:00 am – 10:15 am
Room: San Cristobal FG
Title: **CAHSI Effective Practices**
Presenters: Mohsen Beheshti, Ph.D., CSU-DH
Ann Gates, Ph.D., UTEP
Malek Adjouadi, Ph.D., FIU
Nestor Rodriguez, Ph.D., UPRM
Sarah Hug, Ph.D., Golden Evaluation
Audience: Faculty, Industry, NPO

This session provides an overview of the CAHSI organization and the challenges associated with increasing the number of Hispanics who major in computing. The session concentrates on the following effective practices: Peer-Led Team Learning, Affinity Research Groups, Fem-Prof, and Fellow-Net. The presenters will provide a brief overview of each initiative and give examples of the initiative in practice. The CAHSI evaluator will interject what CAHSI has learned regarding each initiative as a best practice. The session will be interact.

Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm
Room: San Cristobal ABCD
Title: **Collaboration in the Workplace**
Audience: Students

The purpose of the session is to help the students understand what to expect with regards to collaboration as they move from school into the real world. The tools that students use today are free. Helping students understand that free is not always "free" and that using these tools without their workplace's consent can create security concerns, silos, and separation of data.
Building a Diverse and Innovative Workforce

Time: 10:30 am – 11:00 pm
Room: San Cristobal FG
Title: Building CAHSI’S Impact
Presenter: Ann Gates, Ph.D., UTEP
Audience: Faculty, Industry, NPO

This session will describe CAHSI’s future efforts to extend its impact. Participants who share CAHSI’s core purpose will learn how they can become engaged in CAHSI.

CRA Opportunities

Time: 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
Room: San Cristobal FG
Title: CRA Opportunities
Presenter: Melissa Borts, CRA
Audience: Faculty, Industry, NPO

Founded in 1972, CRA’s membership includes more than 200 North American organizations active in computing research: academic departments of computer science and computer engineering, laboratories and centers, and affiliated professional societies. CRA ensures that computing research has a vibrant future by investing in our community. This session will describe the programs that mentor and cultivate individuals in each stage of the pipeline, so that more computing researchers can reach their full potential.

Lunch: 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
Room: San Geronimo Ballroom/Foyer C

Plenary Talk
Time: 12:40 pm – 1:15 pm
Speaker: Danny Olivas, Ph.D., Director of the Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance Research

Dr. Olivas, a Mission Specialist for NASA for 12 years, worked on technical projects on land, under the ocean and in space. He was a crew member on two space shuttle missions, logging more than 650 hours, 440 earth orbits and 11 million miles in space and participating in five spacewalks totaling 34 hours. In space, he installed critical components into the International Space Station. He also accomplished the first ever spacewalk to repair the shuttle while in orbit, when damaged heat shielding posed a potentially disastrous threat to the shuttle and its crew. In his plenary talk, Dr. Olivas will describe his education and career paths and share his experiences as an astronaut.
Building a Diverse and Innovative Workforce

**Time:** 1:30 pm – 2:15 pm  
**Room:** San Cristobal ABCD  
**Title:** CRA Opportunities  
**Presenters:** Melissa Borts, CRA  
**Audience:** Students

This session will describe the programs that mentor and cultivate individuals in each stage of the pipeline. Learn about opportunities to get involved in programs that CRA has to offer whether you are an undergraduate, graduate student, or a student who is completing your Ph.D.

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**Time:** 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm  
**Room:** Conference Center 6-7  
**Title:** Graduate School Funding Opportunities and the GEM Fellowship  
**Presenter:** Marcus Huggans, Ph.D., GEM Consortium  
**Audience:** Students

“Show me the Money” ... and then give it to me! During this workshop you will find how to identify and apply for funding whether you are in graduate school or just finishing your first semester as an undergraduate. This information will give you the insight on how much money is available, how to find it, how to apply for it, and how to secure it! Come find out why no one should pay for STEM graduate school if they go about it correctly!

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**Time:** 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
**Room:** San Cristobal FG  
**Title:** Young Women in Computing and YO-GUTC  
**Presenter:** Enrico Pontelli, Ph.D., NMSU  
**Audience:** Faculty, Industry, NPO

The session will be articulated in two parts. In the first part, we will review the needs and motivations for the Young Women in Computing program, the strategies being investigated, and provide a summary of impact and lessons learned. The second part of the session will be led by our undergraduate researchers; they will demonstrate sample of activities used in our program.
This session will focus on strategies for actively identifying a viable research topic (undergraduate or graduate), and in particular, for your Ph.D. dissertation. It will discuss how to choose between several topics and what you should look for in a topic. It will address how your career plans (e.g., teaching, academic research, or industrial research) may influence your choice. It will also describe the various aspects of a research topic (e.g., theoretical foundation, experimental framework, analytic and experimental results), and it will discuss how to set reasonable goals and milestones so that you can successfully finish in a reasonable time frame.

Ninety percent of science and engineering publications were authored by two or more individuals in 2013 (National Research Council, 2015). The need of cross-disciplinary research teams and education has grown in the last few years. In this session, participants will learn and practice skills needed for effective collaborations across disciplines.

The crucible of human spaceflight poses unique and difficult challenges which have slim margins between glorious success and horrific failure. Dr. Olivas utilizes the methodology of Mission Assurance, in a
Building a Diverse and Innovative Workforce

A comprehensive yet simplified approach, to help companies and organizations use the lessons learned in Space to aid in solving of complex problems and issues. Participants of the workshop will learn the principals of the SOAR™ model approach to Mission Assurance and be given examples of how it has been successfully extrapolated to non-space related industries. Additionally, participants will be invited to engage in a brainstorming session to address the challenges of Hispanic student integration into the workforce, using the methodology of Mission Assurance.

Time: 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Room: San Cristobal ABCD
Title: Panel: Succeeding in a Doctoral Program
Presenters: Diego Aguirre, University of Texas at El Paso
Yolián Amaro - Penn State University (former UPR-Mayaguez student)
Adriana Camacho, PhD student at the University of Texas at El Paso
Luis Galarza, Florida International University
Keishla Ortiz - Texas A&M University (former UPR-Arecibo student)
Audience: Students

The objective of the panel is to motivate students to continue doctoral studies. The panelists will share their experiences in getting into graduate school and dealing with academics.

Student Poster Presentations and Reception
Time: 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Speaker: Dr. Kamau Bobb, NSF Program Director, Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering
Location: San Cristobal ABCD/Foyer
Breakfast:  7:30 am – 8:30 am  
Room:  San Geronimo Ballroom/Foyer C  

Speakers:  Ruthe Farmer, Natalia Rodriguez, and Jessica Santana  
NCWIT Collegiate Award  

Time:  8:30 am – 12:00 pm  
Room:  San Cristobal EFG  
Title:  CAHSI Hackathon  
Audience:  Students—requires pre-registration  
This attack-oriented competition distills the essence of many aspects of professional computer security work into a single short exercise. At the competition, the teams will watch a short Ethical Hacking video that prepares the students for the competition, and then they will compete in the collegiate cyber “Capture the Flag” activity. The competition be include novice and expert three-person teams.  

Time:  8:30 am – 12:00 pm  
Room:  San Cristobal ABCD  
Title:  Unleash Your Creativity, Innovation the Google Way  
Presenter:  Frank Rodriguez, Google  
Audience:  Students  
This workshop will introduce participants to some of the innovation and product design processes employed at Google. Participants will learn how to apply the process in order to systematically understand and solve problems creatively.  

Time:  8:30 am – 9:30 am  
Room:  Conference Center 6-7  
Title:  THE AIMS2 (Attract, Inspire, Mentor and Support Students) Program  
Presenter:  Dean S.K. Ramesh, CSU Northridge  
Audience:  Faculty, Industry, NPO
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Through funding from the U.S. Department of Education HSI STEM program, the College of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University, Northridge has implemented a program designed to increase the number of low-income, Hispanic and other underrepresented students graduating from CSUN with engineering and computer science majors. This collaborative project entitled AIMS² (for Attract, Inspire, Mentor and Support Students), is led by CSUN, in partnership with Glendale Community College (GCC) and the College of the Canyons (COC). This session will describe the results and lessons learned from their collaborative efforts.

Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 am
Room: Conference Center 6-7
Title: Enhancing Stem Areas Using Educational Robotics
Presenter: Eliana Valenzuela, Ph.D., UPR Arecibo
Audience: Faculty, Industry, NPO

In this session we will describe our experiences at UPRA, enhancing STEM areas using educational robotics during the past five years with K-12 students and our program’s students. Also, we will present the University of Puerto Rico Arecibo Robotics Team and the expectations of this initiative as a strategy of recruiting.

Time: 10:45 am – 12:00 pm
Room: Conference Center 6-7
Title: Latinas in Technology
Presenters: Ruthe Farmer, NCWIT
Katy de la Garza, Televisa Foundation
Jessica Santana and Natalia Rodriguez
Audience: Faculty, Industry, NPO

TECHNOLOchicas is a collaborative project of the National Center for Women & IT (NCWIT) and Televisa Foundation designed to raise awareness among young Latinas and their families about opportunities and careers in technology. This video series features the powerful stories of 5 Latinas from diverse backgrounds and environments who share a passion for technology and its power to change the world. TECHNOLOchicas is made possible through the support of Apple Corporation, the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions (CAHSI), EMC Corporation, Google and Microsoft. This session will premier this exciting new campaign and share ways in which partners can leverage the TECHNOLOchicas campaign for outreach. Campaign stars Jessica Santana and Natalia Rodriguez, and producer Katy de la Garza will be on hand to answer questions.
Lunch: 12:00 pm – 1:15 pm
Room: San Germonio Ballroom/Foyer C

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Room: San Cristobal ABCD
Title: Graduate Student Presentations
Audience: All

Towards a Semantic-Based Integration of Water Models
Luis Garnica, Norma Rivera, Caesar Zapata, Karen Richart, Natalia Villanueva-Rosas,
Computer Science Department, University of Texas at El Paso

Binary Classification for Conceptual Change Assessment
Brian A. Landrón Rivera, Nayda G. Santiago, Aidsa Santiago, and J. Fernando Vega
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Puerto Rico Mayagüez

A Web Application for SVM Classification of Alzheimer’s Disease and its Prodromal Stages
Gabriel Lizarraga, Qi Zhou, Mercedes Cabrerizo and Malek Adjouadi
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Florida International University

Leveraging Cybersecurity for Securing and Testing Current and Future Unmanned Technologies
Daniel Navarro, Jean Carlos Méndez, Eduardo Ortiz-Rivera
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez

Towards Semantically Integrating Data to Enhance a Field Trip Experience.
Miguel Royo-Leon, Perry I. Houser, Robert Munoz, Erick Estrada, Natalia Villanueva-Rosas, Deana Pennington.
Computer Science Department and Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas at El Paso

Time: 1:15 pm – 2:30 pm
Title: Preparing to Become an Entrepreneur
Room: Conference Center 6-7
Presenter: Diego Aguirre, UTEP
Audience: Students

The purpose of this session is to motivate students to become entrepreneurs by making use of the knowledge acquired through Graduate Studies and state-of-the-art technologies.
PRIVATE EVENTS

Lunch and Roundtable Discussion
Time: 12:00-4:00
Room: Las Olas

Dinner and BOA
Time: 5:00-8:00
Room: Conference Center 10
SPEAKER BIOS

Malek Adjouadi, Ph.D
Professor and Director, Center for Advanced Technology and Education
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Florida International University

Dr. Adjouadi is the founding director of the Center for Advanced Technology and Education funded by the National Science Foundation since a planning grant in 1993. He received his BS degree (June 1978) from Oklahoma State University and his MS and PhD degrees (June 1981 and August 1985, respectively) from the University of Florida. All degrees were from Electrical Engineering. His early work on “Computer Vision Techniques to Help the Blind” has led him to provide testimony to the US Senate committee of Veterans Affairs on technology to help persons with disabilities. His research interests are in image and signal processing, assistive technology, and neuroscience with applications to epilepsy and Alzheimer's disease. He is a founding member of the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions-CAHSI.

Diego Aguirre
Ph.D. Student, Computer Science Department
The University of Texas at El Paso

Diego Aguirre is a Ph.D. student in the Computer Science program at UTEP. He also holds an M.S. and B.S. in Computer Science from UTEP. His research interests include Machine Learning, Computer Vision, Natural Language Processing, and Semantic Web. He has worked with Lockheed Martin, UT Austin, and Cyber-ShARE. Diego collaborates with IBM to develop cutting-edge applications using Watson.

Melissa Borts
Program Associate, CRA

As a Program Associate at Computing Research Association, Melissa is responsible for assisting the Director of Programs in planning and organizing various activities and events for CRA-W.
Mohsen Beheshti,  
Chair Computer Science Department  
California State University, Dominguez Hills

Dr. Mohsen Beheshti is the Chair and Professor of Computer Science Department at California State University - Dominguez Hills. His research interests include Network Security, Big Data, Data Conversion, Multidisciplinary research, and Curriculum Development. He is the director of Center for Excellence in Knowledge Management and Computational Science (CECS) to promote research and education for the college. He is also the director of Computer Science Research Lab (CSRL) conducting research in Intrusion Detection System and Data Mining/Big Data in collaboration with other faculty members and undergraduate/graduate students. He has developed new graduate and undergraduate programs to better prepare students for the workforce, and their studies. He has extensive experience in developing supervised/closed laboratories and has developed course and lab manuals. Dr. Beheshti has received numerous grants to advance technology in education; and he has hosted a series of workshops for high school teachers to further promote computer science to high school students. He is also a member of IEEE, ACM, Sigma Xi, CAHSI, and SACNAS.

Alan Bivens, Ph.D.  
Senior Manager, Cloud Systems and Analytics  
IBM TJ Watson Research Center

Dr. Alan Bivens is Principal Research Staff Member and Senior Manager of Cloud Systems and Analytics at the IBM T.J. Watson Research Center. In this role he leads a number of global teams to drive optimization and advanced features in IBM’s cloud systems and build analytic capabilities into IBM offerings and services. While Alan’s current role primarily drives capability with IBM’s Services Division, he has also had roles focused on driving advanced analytics into IBM’s Systems and Software products including roles which drove relationships with both standards and academic organizations. Alan is an alumni of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and has over 25 filed patents and over 40 publications in the areas of distributed systems, systems management, and machine learning technologies.
Jamika Burge, Ph.D.
Director of assessment technology product and research
Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium

Dr. Jamika Burge serves as the director of assessment technology product and research for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium. She oversees the Smarter App suite of open source software as well as leads efforts to identify, prioritize, and manage system requirements using a user research approach. She is also responsible for developing a strategic vision to sustain and enhance the Smarter Balanced assessment system to better improve teaching and learning among member states. Her research interests lie in human-computer interaction (HCI), specifically in the design of technologies that support a range of communication and interaction needs. She is active in computer science education and STEM preparedness efforts, providing expertise for a host of funded programs funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Computing Research Association (CRA), including those seeking to broaden participation in computer science. Jamika holds a Ph.D. in computer science, with a focus on human-computer interaction (HCI) from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Ruthe Farmer
NCWIT
Chief Strategy & Growth Officer | Director, K-12 Alliance

Ruthe Farmer has focused her efforts on increasing girls' participation in technology and engineering since 2001. She leads strategy, development and partnerships at NCWIT and directs the NCWIT K-12 Alliance. Ruthe has a history of successfully scaling up innovative STEM projects and leverages that experience for the NCWIT mission. She is the driving force behind the hugely successful Aspirations in Computing talent development initiative, designed the NCWIT AspireIT outreach program to engage 10,000 girls in computing by 2018, and launched the NCWIT Latinas in Technology campaign and initiative in January 2015. She received the inaugural Education UK Alumni Award for Social Impact in 2015, the Anita Borg Institute Award for Social Impact in 2014, was named a Champion of Change for Technology Inclusion by the White House and received the Ulla Popken Phenomenal Woman Award for her work to increase girls' participation in technology and engineering in 2013. Ruthe served as the 2012 Chair of Computer Science Education Week and has been featured in Forbes, Tech Republic and is a guest contributor for the Shriver Report and TechCrunch.
Mary Fernández, Ph.D.
CEO MentorNet

Dr. Mary Fernández is President of MentorNet, a division of Great Minds in STEM. Great Minds in STEM is a national non-profit with a 27-year history of advancing STEM education in under-served communities. MentorNet is an open social network that provides the opportunity for all STEM students, nationwide and in all levels of higher education, to have access to mentors who are professionals working in STEM fields. MentorNet’s guided, one-to-one mentorships help all students — especially women, under-represented minorities, and first-generation to college — to persist and succeed in their fields. Since MentorNet opened its virtual doors in 1998, Mary has mentored 18 mentees while she pursued her career in computing research. Before joining MentorNet, Mary had a 17-year career at AT&T Labs Research, as a research computer scientist specializing in database and information systems, then as the head of distributed computing research, and finally as assistant vice president of information and software systems research.

Ann Quiroz Gates, Ph.D.
Chair Computer Science, Dept. Computer Science
The University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Ann Q. Gates is Professor and Chair of the Computer Science Department at the University of Texas at El Paso. Her areas of research are in software engineering and cyberinfrastructure with an emphasis on workflows, ontologies, and formal software specification. Gates directs the NSF-funded Cyber-ShARE Center that focuses on developing and sharing resources through cyber-infrastructure to advance research and education in science. She was a founding member of the NSF Advisory Committee for Cyber-infrastructure. Gates served on the IEEE-Computer Society (IEEE-CS) Board of Governors 2004-2009. In addition, she chairs the IEEE-CS Educational Activity Board’s Committee of Diversity and External Activities and has established a model for specialized student chapters focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, and professional development. She is a member of the Computer Science Accreditation Board (2011-2013). Gates leads the Computing Alliance for Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CAHSI) and is a founding member of the National Center for Women in Information Technology (NCWIT). She received the 2015 Great Minds in STEM Educator Award, the 2015 A. Nico Habermann Award, the 2010 Anita Borg Institute Social Impact Award, and the 2009 Richard A. Tapia Achievement Award for Scientific Scholarship, Civic Science, and Diversifying Computing. She was named to Hispanic Business magazine’s 100 Influential Hispanics in 2006 for her work on the Affinity Research Group model.
Sarah Hug, Ph.D.
Research Associate, Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society
Institute at the University of Colorado at Boulder

Dr. Sarah Hug is a research associate with the Alliance for Technology, Learning and Society (ATLAS) Institute at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She earned her PhD in Educational Psychology from the University of Colorado, Boulder. Prior to her doctoral studies, Dr. Hug was a K12 teacher in a Title I school. Dr. Hug is a learning scientist specializing in mixed method research and evaluation regarding learning and identity in technology fields. She has served as an evaluator for numerous National Science Foundation programs in K-20 STEM fields, with a focus on engineering and computing.

Marcus A. Huggans, Ph.D.
Senior Director of External Relations
The National GEM Consortium

Dr. Marcus A. Huggans is a native of St. Louis, Missouri and was educated in the University City and Lutheran Parochial school systems. He completed his engineering studies at the University of Missouri-Rolla. He received a B.S. degree in Electrical Engineering and M.S. & Ph.D. in Engineering Management. He was one of the first African-American males to earn a Ph.D. in this discipline from the University. Dr. Huggans is an alumnus of the GEM Fellowship Program. Dr. Huggans has extensive experience in the STEM field with over twenty years of working in the industry, academia, and non-profits. He has worked for 3M Company, AT&T Bell Laboratories, Department of Justice-Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and Texas Instruments Inc, University of Missouri-Rolla (UMR) now known as Missouri S&T, and the National GEM Consortium. He began working at the National GEM Consortium in 2006 and is the Senior Director of External Relations at GEM. At GEM, Dr. Huggans recruits and conducts graduate programming to encourage under-represented minority students to pursue their graduate degrees in science, technology, engineering, and applied mathematics (STEM) fields. He also contributed to all the current publications that accompany the student programming at GEM. Finally, Dr. Huggans has been an invited speaker to many diversity conferences, National Science Foundation, and multiple universities. His Motto: “If there is light in the soul, there will be beauty in the person. If there is beauty in the person, there will be harmony in the house. If there is harmony in the house, there will be order in the nation. If there is order in the nation, there will be Peace in the World.”
Kamau Bobb, Ph.D.
Program Office, National Science Foundation

Kamau Bobb is a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation in the Directorate for Computer & Information Science & Engineering. He is on rotation from Georgia Tech where he is a research scientist and one of the chief strategists for STEM education for the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). Prior to his current assignment he served as a liaison to the University System of Georgia (USG) and was the director of the USG system-wide STEM Initiative. Dr. Bobb has more than 10 years’ experience in STEM policy analysis and program implementation. Prior to joining the faculty at Georgia Tech, he was a science and technology policy analyst at SRI International where he conducted research on university strategic planning and STEM workforce analysis for clients in the United States and in the Middle East. Dr. Bobb holds a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Policy from Georgia Tech and M.S. and B.S. degrees in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California Berkeley.

Patty Lopez, Ph.D.
Senior Platform Applications Engineer
Intel Corporation

Dr. Patty Lopez is a Senior Platform Applications Engineer at Intel Corporation, working with customers to deliver Xeon server chip solutions that power high end data centers and mission critical applications, with expertise in post-silicon debug. Prior to joining Intel in 2008, she spent 19 years as an Imaging Scientist for HP, creating and transferring technology into imaging products. She has released over fifty products and holds seven patents. She earned her BS (with honors), MS, and PhD in Computer Science from New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Dr. Lopez serves on the advisory boards of the Computing Research Association-Women (CRA-W), the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions (CAHSI), the NMSU Foundation, and the NMSU CS Department. She is a Distinguished Alumna in the NMSU College of Arts and Sciences, a founding member and co-chair of Latinas in Computing, and won the 2015 SWE Advocating Women in Engineering Award. Her research interests include CS education, E-textiles, and wearable computing. Her volunteer efforts are focused on building the STEM pipeline for K-16 and beyond, and creating an inclusive organizational culture in the workplace.
Barbara McAllister  
Deputy Director  
Diversity in Technology Initiative  

As the Deputy Director of Intel's Diversity in Technology Initiative, Barbara leads the strategy and execution of Intel’s recently announced commitment of a $300M Diversity in Technology (DiT) Fund. Barbara works in collaboration with key stakeholders and respective fund decision makers on an integrated strategy that drives Intel’s funding selections and public announcements. She is responsible for developing the infrastructure, operational and implementation design of the Fund that positions Intel to successfully achieve its 2020 full representation of women and underrepresented minority goal. As part of her oversight, Barbara also directly leads the team focused on DiT Fund investments in the education pipeline focused on Intel’s immediate workforce development needs. Barbara has a BS degree in Electrical Engineering, an MBA and is currently pursuing a PhD in Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology at Arizona State University.

Prior to transitioning to the philanthropic side of Intel, she spent 15 years in key leadership and project engineering roles responsible for acquiring and starting up new facilities for Intel Corporation worldwide. Barbara led operations for multiple international startups with fast paced ramps resulting in rich and rewarding cultural experiences. She and her family lived in Costa Rica for two years as Intel established a critical manufacturing presence there. She is a Certified Executive Leadership Coach with the International Coach Federation (ICF) and a Professional Facilitator with experience in the fields of program management, strategy development, and mergers/acquisitions. She is a graduate of the Business for Diplomatic Action Fellows Program that resulted in a three-week global leadership exchange in the Middle East and is a recipient of Intel’s Lifetime Diversity Achievement Award.

John “Danny” Olivas, Ph.D., P.E.  
Astronaut | Mission Assurance Expert  
Director of Space Initiatives | Author | Forensic Engineer  

Dr. Olivas, a Mission Specialist for NASA for 12 years, worked on technical projects on land, under the ocean and in space. He was a crew member on two space shuttle missions, logging more than 650 hours, 440 earth orbits and 11 million miles in space and participating in five spacewalks totaling 34 hours. In space, he installed critical components into the International Space Station. He also accomplished the first ever spacewalk to repair the shuttle while in orbit, when damaged heat shielding posed a potentially disastrous threat to the shuttle and its crew. Currently, Dr. Olivas is the president and driving force behind OMS117™ a team of veteran scientists, engineers and business people who use Lessons Learned In Space™ to prevent or
mitigate catastrophic engineering failures of critical systems and processes that could undermine a mission’s success, injure people, or squander assets. He also serves as director of the Center for the Advancement of Space Safety and Mission Assurance at the University of Texas, El Paso. Dr. Olivas holds a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering and materials science from Rice University.

Manuel A. Pérez-Quiñones, Ph.D.
Associate Dean, College of Computing and Informatics
University of North Carolina, Charlotte

Dr. Manuel A. Pérez Quiñones is Associate Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte. He holds a DSc in Computer Science from The George Washington University. His research interests include human-computer interaction, personal information management, user interface software, digital government, and educational uses of computers. Formerly, Dr. Pérez Quiñones was Associate Department Head in the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech, Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Virginia Tech, Chair of the Coalition to Diversify Computing, and Program Chair for the 2015 ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference.

Nestor J. Rodríguez, Ph.D.
Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Puerto Rico- Mayagüez

Dr. Nestor Rodriguez is a professor of the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department at UPR- Mayagüez. His academic interests are human-computer interaction and computer architecture. His research interest is human-computer interaction. Since 1988 he has been working on implementing programs for increasing the participation of minorities in computing careers and graduate school. He has been CoPI of four NSF funded Minority Institutions infrastructure (MII) grants. As part of his involvement in these grants he worked on the establishment, and served as manager, of the Computing Research Center at UPRM. He also served as Co-Chair of the Computing Research Conference (CRC) and was one of the proponents of the doctoral program In Computing and Information Sciences and Engineering (CISE) at UPRM. He is currently the UPR-Mayagüez Coordinator of the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions. He is also Director of the FemProf program at UPR- Mayagüez.
Eliana Valenzuela, Ph.D.
University of Puerto Rico- Mayagüez

Eliana Valenzuela-Andrade holds a doctoral degree in Computing, Information Sciences and Engineering a Masters in Engineering Management Systems from the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus and a BS in Industrial Engineering from the Universidad de los Andes, in Bogotá, Colombia. She has nearly ten years of teaching experience and four years of research experience. The research areas of Dr. Valenzuela-Andrade are Database, Metadata Database Design of Experiments, among others. In the past three years, she has been interested in innovative tools to motivate young people to explore CS topics before and during the college and encourage them to continue a career in this discipline. She had participated in projects of this type with ISMuL at precollege (4-12) and undergraduate level. Some of the tools she has been used are: robotics (using Lego Mindstorms®, TETRIX® and VEX®), computing without Computers, Scratch, SNAP Alice 3, among others. She is part of Latinas in Computing, CCCE, FemProf and CAHSI.

Enrico Pontelli
Professor, Computer Science
Associate Dean, Arts and Sciences
New Mexico State University

Enrico Pontelli is a Regents Professor of Computer Science and Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences at New Mexico State University. He is the funding director of the Knowledge, logic, and advanced programming (KLAP) laboratory and of the iCREDITS Center of Research Excellence in Design of Intelligent Technologies for Smartgrids. He received a Laurea in Computer Science from the University of Udine in 1991, a Master of Science degree in Computer Science from the University of Houston in 1992, and a doctoral degree in Computer Science from New Mexico State University in 1997. His research interests are in Artificial Intelligence, assistive technologies, logic and constraint programming, and bioinformatics. He has published more than 250 peer-reviewed papers and raised over $13M in research funding. He is a member of the leadership team of the Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions and the creator of the Young Women in Computing program.
Natalia Villanueva, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Computer Science
University of Texas at El Paso

Dr. Natalia Villanueva-Rosales is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Texas at El Paso where she leads the iLink research group. She holds a B.Eng. in Computer Science (U. Panamericana, Mexico), a M.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence (U. of Edinburgh, UK) and a Ph.D in Computer Science (Carleton U., Canada). Her research aims to improve automated discovery, integration, analysis and interpretation of scientific data by providing context or meaning to information using Semantic Web technologies. This context, encoded in ontologies can be used by computers to identify data and models required to answer a specific research question. The impact of her work can be clearly appreciated when it is applied to interdisciplinary research, where a key challenge is the integration of data and reusability of models initially created for a different purpose. Her research interest include data- and ontology-based knowledge negotiation, and the creation of trust models for interdisciplinary teams.