



Institute Diversity,
Equity, and Inclusion

DEVELOP. EMPOWER. TRANSFORM.

Leading Women @Tech

2023 - 2024
Program Guide

#GTLeadingWomen



Greetings Leading Women,

It's an honor to facilitate this unique career and leadership development opportunity for Cohort 7! Our theme this year is "Moving Mindfully." This theme acknowledges what's available to us at any moment when we are open to seeing possibility and potential in all that surrounds us. It's a reminder of the awaking that can happen in a single moment, or through a period of uncertainty, trial, and error.

During this four-month journey together, we will create a psychologically safe, introspective, and soul-nourishing space for learning, networking, and strengthening community as women leaders. This experience is provided at no cost to you or your unit, though it represents a significant investment that has been made by the Institute. Achieving our institutional goals for gender equity, inclusivity, and belonging remain imperatives. This will require our best collaboration, genuine support, and intentional sponsorship of one another. You were selected because you lead important initiatives and work at Georgia Tech, and you deserve to thrive as you leave a legacy of positive impact in the world one day at a time. The curriculum, rooted in the wisdom of connection, compassion, and the power of choice has been designed to tightly integrate competency development across five key areas:

- Leadership and Storytelling
- Self-efficacy
- Emotional Intelligence
- Mindful Leadership
- Intercultural Dialogue (Leading with Our Common Humanity)

You will explore these concepts through workshops, dialogues, and executive coaching delivered by a program faculty who are national and international thought leaders with deep expertise in competency building in practice areas. The books and other materials are supplemental to session participation. Each will provide you with tools and techniques to fortify you as leaders of self and others.

Upon the conclusion of this experience, you will emerge with greater self-awareness, knowledge to navigate change, and presence of a transformed leader who holds space for others to do so as well.

Congratulations on your selection! You are becoming a member of the Leading Women@Tech, a community of practice and network that will provide you with ongoing access to leadership development opportunities. Please let Amanda Jomaa, or me know what we can do to facilitate a seamless experience for you. We are here to serve.

With anticipation and warmest regards,

Pearl Alexander

*Principal Director of Leading Women@Tech Program
Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

LEADING WOMEN@TECH OVERVIEW



At Georgia Tech, we value the brilliance and power of our people and their perspectives, putting it all to work to define what's next. As such, we are dedicated to creating a community of leaders who will guide Tech in the 21st century—an institution committed to inclusive leadership, teaching, scholarship, and innovation. One of the major findings from Georgia Tech's Climate Assessment Survey in 2012 that has improved over time was an expressed desire for targeted professional and career development efforts for staff women. With the support of the Office of the President, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion began offering the Leading Women@Tech program in 2016 to engage women leaders and administrators at Georgia Tech in doing just that. The program has now served six cohorts of accomplished women leaders, many of whom have achieved greater success due to habits they began practicing or honed because of participation in this program.

VISION

In alignment with the Institute's Strategic and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plans and specifically Goal 2 of the DEI Plan, "Recruit, Retain, and Develop a Diverse Community of Students, Faculty, and Staff", we will develop people leaders who consistently demonstrate self-awareness, emotional intelligence, cultural competency, inclusiveness, and a responsibility for a culture of inclusive innovation and excellence. This initiative acknowledges excellence and supports for employees who identify as women and who may also identify as faculty and staff of color.

GOALS

1. Strengthen leadership ability, enhance personal and professional growth, and support overall career development of the participants.
2. Create opportunities for women leaders to network, build community, and advance a culture of inclusive excellence.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Monthly workshops and skill-building sessions in the areas of self-efficacy, emotional intelligence, mindfulness, and storytelling.
- Leadership and life coaching is an option available to those who complete skill-building all of sessions with their cohort. Coaching deepens individual growth and empowers participants to act on their career and life goals.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH LEADERSHIP TEAM

Pearl Alexander

Principal Director of Leading Women@Tech Program

Pearl Alexander, JD, CPCC, ACC is an experienced dialogue facilitator, executive-life coach and Certified Dare to Lead™ Facilitator. Pearl serves as Executive Director of Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement and Professor of the Practice at the Georgia Institute of Technology where she oversees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion strategy development and integration, leadership development and DEI consulting. A change agent, she has catalyzed transformations in culture and organizational leadership for over 35 years. Her clients achieve greater fulfillment, personal, and team effectiveness. Tapped to solve the most complex “people” challenges of these times, Pearl’s versatile career assignments have spanned from equity consultant and peacebuilder to spokesperson, storyteller, and strategist. A featured speaker for team retreats and conferences, Alexanders’ audiences have included leading public and private universities, medical schools, law firms, Fortune 500 companies, diversity equity and inclusion councils, business resource groups, search committees, and professional organizations. Her notable “thought leadership” has been featured in several media. Alexander is a member of Forbes Coaches Council, the Moth Director’s Circle, and the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. Principal of Leaders-Life LLC, a boutique firm focused on supporting leader transformations, Pearl integrates equity, inclusion and belonging principles within her services inspiring others to courageously access their personal power and step into “wholeness.”



Amanda Jomaa

Program & Operations Manager

Amanda Jomaa currently serves as a Program & Operations Manager for Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Georgia Tech. She is a graduate of Georgia State University with a BBA in Hospitality Administration. Amanda has been involved with the Leading Women@Tech program since its inception in 2016, and is looking forward to working with another amazing cohort of women during the 2023-24 program.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH SCHEDULE

Leading Women@Tech Kickoff Session (In-Person)

October 5, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Georgia Tech Alumni House, Griffin Ballroom

Opening Talk and Meditation
Swami Jaya Devi Bhagavati
Kashi Atlanta

Keynote: The Power of Leading with Storytelling
Lani Peterson
Arnzen Group

(Following Kickoff Session, In-Person)

Leading with the Power of Storytelling

Lani Peterson
Arnzen Group

12:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
Georgia Tech Alumni House, Griffin Ballroom

Self Efficacy Applied (In-Person)

*The Roles of
Confidence and Courage in Leadership*

Verna Ford
Ford Consulting

October 10, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech Alumni House, Griffin Ballroom

Encountering Your Inner Story (In-Person)

*Narratives that Help or Hinder Empowered
Leadership Presence*

Michelle Goss
Michelle Goss & Co

November 8, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech Alumni House, Griffin Ballroom

Mindfulness and Meditation (Virtual)

Swami Jaya Devi Bhagavati
Kashi Atlanta

November 17, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Finding the Space to Lead (Virtual)

Janice Marturano
Institute for Mindful Leadership

December 7, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Mindfulness and Meditation (Virtual)

Swami Jaya Devi Bhagavati
Kashi Atlanta

December 12, 2023
9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Leading with Our Common Humanity (Virtual)

*Intercultural Dialogue and Closing
Conversation*

Dr. Anneliese Singh
*Professor and Associate Provost for Faculty
Development and Diversity; Chief Diversity
Officer, Tulane University*

January 23, 2024
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH

MEET THE FACILITATORS

Verna Ford

Executive Consultant and Coach, Ford Consulting

Verna Ford has extensive experience consulting with senior leaders on their professional development interests and their transitional career moves. She excels at coaching executives and teams to uncover and leverage hidden strengths, building a bridge between business strategy and human performance, employee engagement and inclusion. She is a published author and an experienced designer of professional development frameworks, and retired executive from Korn Ferry, a global organizational consulting firm.



Self-Efficacy: The Roles of Confidence and Courage in Leadership

Whatever the challenge before you, self-efficacy is the belief in your capacity to act in ways necessary to achieve the outcome you desire. This workshop will be a morning of stimulating discussion and action planning around three types of confidence and four aspects of courage that will help you to build and sustain self-efficacy for a transformative year ahead.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH

MEET THE FACILITATORS

Michelle Goss

President, Michelle Goss & Company, Inc.

Michelle Goss is an executive coach, trainer, speaker, and self-proclaimed “personal growth geek.” She is known for her lively, unconventional approach to leadership, and for guiding high-performance teams and individuals to bring out the very best in themselves and others. Goss draws on her more than 25 years of experience and her passion for success when coaching, training, and consulting others to succeed.



Emotional Intelligence & Encountering Your Inner Story

Your life is a story. You are writing this story every day, and your journey as a leader is expressed through your story. The message, theme, and orientation to your own internal narrative determines the impact of your leadership. In this program, we will identify various internal narrators and we'll explore the most common types of stories: those that limit us and those that set us free to make the contribution we are really here to make.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH

MEET THE FACILITATORS

Janice Marturano

Founder and Executive Director, Institute for Mindful Leadership

Janice Marturano is the founder and executive director of the Institute for Mindful Leadership, a non-pro-fit organization dedicated to training and supporting leaders in the exploration of mindfulness and its impact on the cultivation of leadership excellence. As a certified teacher of mindfulness and an experienced former senior officer of a fortune 200 company, she has brought the intensive training of mindful leadership to all forms of organizations. She is the author of the best-selling book, *Finding the Space to Lead: A Practical Guide to Mindful Leadership*.



Finding the Space to Lead

In times of extreme change, it is more important than ever for leaders to be self-aware, resilient and compassionate. In our Mindful Leadership workshop, we will explore the many ways we can strengthen our ability to cultivate our best qualities and minimize the time that we are living on autopilot, rushing from one thing to the next without really paying full attention to anything or anyone.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH MEET THE FACILITATORS

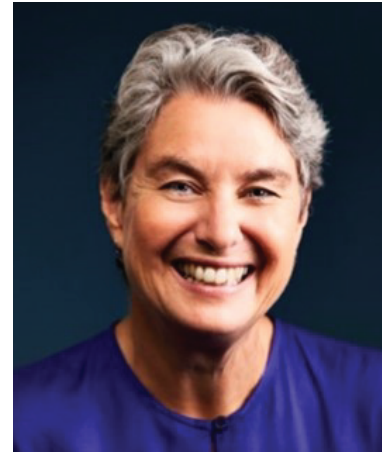
Lani Peterson

Executive Coach, Arnzen Group

Lani Peterson is a psychologist, executive coach, and workshop designer/facilitator. She has extensive experience working with individuals, groups and organizations in the areas of leadership, emotional intelligence, personal and team development. Drawing on her practice as a national level public speaker, Lani teaches executives and managers the skill of personal presence, and the development and delivery of high impact communications. She specializes in the application of narrative as a leadership tool, and medium for personal growth, connection and change.

In the course of her career, Lani has worked with profit and non-profit organizations with extensive experience with medical, healthcare and educational institutions.

Lani's professional training includes a Doctorate in Psychology from William James College, a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Lesley University, and Bachelor's degree in literature from Smith College. She is a member of the National Speakers Association, the National Storytelling Network, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Healing Story Alliance, which she chaired for five years.



Leading with the Power of Storytelling

Presence and influence are two essential skills at the heart of leadership. How we show up in the present and how we step up to create the future we desire are both shaped by our stories. In her keynote address, Lani Peterson will introduce us how to gain insight from the stories of where we have come from to deepen our understanding of how we show up now and empower us to grow into a future of high potential.

Using story intelligence as a backdrop for personal insight and professional leadership development, Lani will integrate an understanding of how the Leading Women @Tech modules (Self-efficacy, Mindful Leadership, Emotional Fluency and Influential Communication) come together to support the skills of deep presence and readiness for transformation and change.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH

MEET THE FACILITATORS

Dr. Anneliese Singh

**Professor and Associate Provost for Faculty Development;
Diversity/Chief Diversity Officer, Tulane University**

Anneliese Singh, PhD, LPC (she/they) is a Professor and Associate Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity/Chief Diversity Officer at Tulane University. Her scholarship and community organizing explores the resilience, trauma, and identity development experiences of queer and trans people, with a focus on young people and BIPOC people. Anneliese is the author of *The Racial Healing Handbook: Practical Activities to Help You Challenge Privilege, Confront Systemic Racism, and Engage in Collective Healing* and *The Queer and Trans Resilience Workbook*. Anneliese is co-founder of the Georgia Safe Schools Coalition and the Trans Resilience Project. Dr. Singh is @anneliesesingh on Twitter and Instagram, and her website is www.anneliesesingh.com.



Leading with Our Common Humanity

In this session, Dr. Anneliese Singh describes core DEI and racial healing strategies that Leading Women@Tech participants can practice in the aim of collective racial and intersectional equity. In doing so, Dr. Singh invites people to explore how to address racial and other societal inequities in their current professional settings and specific ways to reclaim their whole selves and authenticity in their leadership.

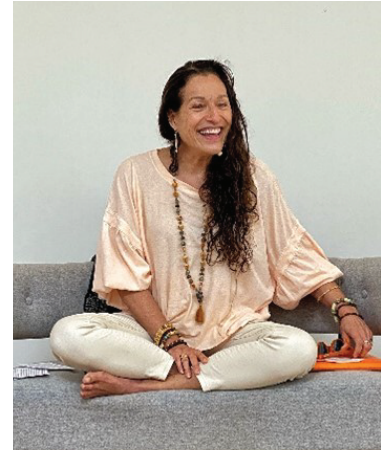
LEADING WOMEN@TECH

MEET THE FACILITATORS

Swami Jaya Devi

Mindfulness + Meditation Teacher Founder + Spiritual Director of Kashi Atlanta

Swami Jaya Devi is a mindfulness teacher and urban yoga monk who has run a thriving yoga and meditation center in Atlanta since the 1990s and is the author of the Amazon bestseller *Embodied: An Urban Yogi's Memoir + Manifesto for Modern Living*. Her passion is channeling yoga's ancient toolkit in a modern, accessible way. With raw vulnerability and live-it-to-learn-it insight, Swami teaches how to “love anyway,” no matter how intense the world gets. Through deep, guided practice, we learn to embrace each moment, open our hearts and live fully in the world as ourselves. A joyful, down-to-earth catalyst for personal growth, Swami is determined that we can heal the world – one heart at a time.



Mindfulness & Meditation

Our world is wildly busy, and our minds often become overrun with thoughts, tasks and ideas. The deep and simple practice of mindfulness can help us slow down and remember our innate well-being. We learn this through the art of non-reaction, where we develop compassionate presence for all of our experiences and everyone else's. Join spiritual teacher Swami Jaya Devi for a talk, meditation and Q + A session on how to embody inner practice in the contemporary world.

LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Sonda Abernathy

Deputy Director of Human Resources, Georgia Tech Research Institute

Originally from Atlanta, Georgia, Sonda Abernathy is the deputy director of human resources at Georgia Tech Research Institute. Prior to joining GTRI, she served in administrative leadership roles in several colleges and schools within Georgia State University.

Sonda matriculated from Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies with an M.P.A. and Robinson College of Business with a B.B.A. in human resource management. She resides in Sandy Springs, Georgia with her husband and two children. When not traveling around the world, she finds joy in volunteering with local charities and organizations to support women and families in underrepresented communities.



Tara Adams

Assistant Director of General Maintenance, Housing and Residence Life

With a career that spans over two decades in housing operations, Tara began her professional journey in higher education with the University System of Georgia in 2008. She joined Georgia Tech Housing and Residence Life in 2020 where she serves on the facilities leadership team as Assistant Director, responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of maintenance and skilled trade facilities professionals, ensuring the smooth functioning and efficient management of housing facilities. Tara's leadership style aligns with John Maxwell's 5 levels of leadership, emphasizing people development. Her StrengthsFinder attributes include positivity, woo, arranger, restorative, and activator. Tara holds a Business Administration degree from Kennesaw State University and minors in Industrial Engineering Technology. She advocates for mental health awareness and volunteers with the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Rashidah Bahar

Director of Strategic Business Projects and Portfolio Management, Office of Information Technology

A part of the Georgia Tech community since 2019, Rashidah Bahar is the Director of Strategic Business Projects and Portfolio Management, within OIT's Office of Strategic Initiatives. With a particular focus in strategic planning and organizational change management, Bahar brings over 12 years of experience as a program and project manager, specializing in enterprise-wide implementations. Bahar's current role centers on managing OIT's portfolio of strategic plan projects that seek to enhance overall business performance and increase operational efficiency. Bahar is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), and Scrum Master (CSM), with a B.A. from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Jaimie Concord Hayes

Senior Director of Development, Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

With extensive experience in fundraising and donor relations, Jaimie's role focuses on fostering connections with the Woodruff School's 26,000 alumni, ensuring they remain engaged as 'Helluva Engineers.' In her personal life, she is supported by her loving family, including her husband, Matt, and their children, Miller and Foster. Jaimie is deeply passionate about education and non-profit work, and she feels grateful for the opportunity to pursue a career that combines both. She is dedicated to establishing strong relationships with alumni, donors, and supporters, contributing to Georgia Tech's Transforming Tomorrow campaign.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Sheila Cranman

Assistant Chief Counsel II – Export & Trade, Office of the General Counsel

Sheila Cranman is Assistant Chief Counsel II – Export & Trade - in the Office of General Counsel at Georgia Tech. In 2018, she participated in the GT Inclusive Leaders Academy, the Adaptive Leadership Workshop and the Georgia Tech Diversity & Inclusion Fellows program. Her project to train graduate students in conflict resolution skills is institutionalized in some Responsible Conduct of Research courses for first year graduate students. In recent years, Sheila spoke about export controls and trade compliance at the Association of University Export Control Officer (AUECO) Conference, the Association of College and University Auditors (ACUA) Conference and the National Association of College and University Attorneys fall advanced workshop.

Sheila is a mediator with experience mediating family, juvenile, special education, small claims/ landlord tenant and business disputes. She taught mediation as a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Arkansas Little Rock William H. Bowen School of Law where she developed and directed a juvenile mediation clinic. Sheila directed a juvenile court mediation program in Georgia that was a pilot program for deprivation/dependency neglect mediation .



Caroline Cully Garbers

Associate Director of Education Abroad, Office of International Education

Caroline Cully Garbers is an Associate Director of Education Abroad in the Office of International Education. Caroline oversees GT Exchanges, working with over 80 partners and international institutions. She also manages the Global Research and Internship Program (GRIP) and is responsible for all efforts in business development and recruiting employers in the public and private sectors to host internships abroad for students. Caroline holds a PhD in Agricultural Education and Communications from the University of Florida.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Jo Beth Cup

Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives and Operations, Office of Undergraduate Education

Jo Beth Cup joined the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2023 as the Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives and Operations. Jo Beth is responsible for overseeing key programs and initiatives for the Office of Undergraduate Education (OUE) and on behalf of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education (VPUE). In this role, Jo Beth provides oversight for areas that include administrative operations; communication, marketing and events, academic analytics, development, data and assessment, and OUE strategic planning.

With more than 30 years of experience in higher education, Jo Beth has spent the bulk of her career supporting strategic initiatives, organizational development and growth, and accreditation and authorization relationships. Prior to her current position, Jo Beth served as Special Assistant to the President (2020-2022) and Vice President for Administration (2005-2020) at Adler University in Chicago.

Jo Beth has a BA in Psychology from Central College (IA) and an M.S. in Management from National Louis University.



Zellie Duvall

Associate Director of Federal Relations, Office of Institute Relations

Zellie Duvall serves as Associate Director of Federal Relations in the Office of Institute Relations at Georgia Tech. In her role, Zellie works on a team of dedicated advocates promoting the Institute among federal decision-makers, and national education and research policy organizations. Based on campus, she also hosts federal stakeholders for lab tours, events, or meetings with our students and faculty.

Prior to Georgia Tech, Zellie lived in Washington, DC where she worked for three Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in different legislative roles, and as Policy and Congressional Advisor in the Office of Congressional Relations at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Gloria Griessman

Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives, Office of Corporate Engagement

Gloria Griessman is Senior Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of Corporate Engagement. She specializes in building and scaling engagement for domain-specific areas, including cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, and life sciences. In her previous roles at Georgia Tech, she helped build the Institute for Information Security and Privacy (IISP) and commercialization programs at GTRI. She is a business executive with over 20 years of leadership in driving market expansion building strategic programs for universities, Fortune 500, and emerging companies. In her previous roles, she led strategic marketing, partnership, sales, innovation, and P&L management for organizations, including WebMD (Vice President of Marketing built a \$30M start-up to a \$6B global leader), Vitruve (acquired by Oracle for \$300M), and ChoicePoint (acquired by Reed Elsevier for \$6B). Gloria is a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology.



Tamika Griffin

Associate Director of Sponsored Systems, Georgia Tech Research Institute

Tamika Griffin currently serves as the Associate Director of Sponsored Systems within the Sponsored Project Support unit for Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI). In this position, she directs the activities for all sponsored systems operations for GTRI. This includes software testing, implementation, training and system enhancements. She also ensures compliance with State & Institute policies and procedures. With her more than 21-year career at the Institute, Tamika has held several positions of increasing responsibility within Georgia Tech Research Institute.

Tamika received her bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Georgia Tech and her Master of Business Administration from Southern Polytechnic University.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Saeedah Hickman

Senior Director of Administration, Office of the Executive Vice President for Research

Saeedah Hickman is the Senior Director of Administration in the Office of the Executive Vice President for Research (EVPR) at Georgia Tech. The major functions of this role include identifying and resolving complex research administration and operations matters, leading EVPR initiatives, and liaising with internal and external constituents to develop and improve processes.

A native New Yorker, Saeedah recently relocated to Atlanta, GA. She holds a Bachelors in Sociology and International Relations from Stony Brook University, a Masters of Arts in Urban Affairs from Queens College, and is currently pursuing an Ed.D. in Higher Education Management at the University of Georgia. She is also a Certified Research Administrator (CRA).



Nadine Jones

Assistant Director of Administrative Operations, Georgia Tech Europe

Nadine Jones is a collaborative and compassionate leader with an international education career spanning over a decade. She is dedicated to creating accessible international opportunities for students and is committed to fostering a global community of curious learners and courageous leaders. Prior to her current role serving Georgia Tech's European campus abroad in Metz, France, Nadine led Kennesaw State University's Education Abroad team and programs. Nadine holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a master's in integrated Global Communication. Nadine's passion for growth extends beyond her work, evident through her love for podcasts, reading, and lifelong learning.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Dale Lawson, MD

Director of Primary Care, Stamps Health Services

After graduating from Georgia Tech in 1988, Dale worked in the Technology Industry for seven years. She then attended Medical School and spent 18 years as an Emergency Physician. In October 2022, she happily returned to GT as Director of Primary Care at Stamps Student Health Services.



Megan McRainey

Director of Communications, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Megan McRainey leads communications strategy for the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. She has nearly 20 years of higher education communications experience and her varied roles have included media relations, social media, writing, marketing, and publications. A former journalist, Megan holds a bachelor's degree in Journalism from the University of Georgia.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Karena Nguyen

Assistant Director for Postdoctoral Services, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education

Nguyen earned a Ph.D. in integrative biology from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's of science in ecology and evolution from Saint Louis University. She also completed a postdoctoral fellowship with the Fellowships in Research and Science Teaching (FIRST) program at Emory University. In her current role at Georgia Tech, Nguyen builds community through social and academic events and develops career and professional development opportunities for postdocs. She firmly believes that supporting diverse communities and creating safe, equitable, and inclusive spaces for all people will lead to the betterment of research and higher education.



Arthi Rao

Senior Research Scientist and Interim Director, Center for Quality Growth and Regional Development, College of Design

Arthi's work focuses on healthy communities' research, practice, and teaching, supported by her interdisciplinary background in Urban Planning, Epidemiology, and Geospatial Analytics. She partners with various stakeholders including academicians, healthcare systems, and local governments to develop evidence-based sociotechnical tools to promote equitable and sustainable communities. She also currently serves as the Co-PI of the National African American Child and Family Research Center in partnership with the Morehouse School of Medicine. Prior to Georgia Tech, Arthi was a Senior Research Scientist within the Statistics and Evaluation Center at the American Cancer Society (ACS).



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Vicki Rogers

Director of Service Management, Office of Information Technology

Vicki Rogers currently serves as the Director of Service Management in OIT at Georgia Tech. She joined GT in 2018 and has 17 years of experience in the USG. She has over 20 years of IT experience including both technical and leadership roles. She has expertise in service management, change management, leadership development and diversity in IT. Vicki holds a BBA in Business Management, an MBA and an EdS in Learning, Leadership and Organizational Development. Her graduate research involved developing women leaders in higher education IT. Vicki is a regular national speaker on leadership, service management, diversity topics and change.



Preeti Sagar

Assistant Director, Financial Operations, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Preeti Sagar provides financial oversight, budget management, policy and compliance guidance in her current role at Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Preeti started her career at an early age in the corporate arena in Manhattan in the fashion garment industry. She has over two decades of higher education administration experience and completed ten years at Georgia Tech in January 2023.

Preeti speaks four languages and has been working on her fifth language at Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta since 2012. She has served on the board of Alliance Francaise d'Atlanta and its committees since 2020. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, supporting the arts, traveling, photography, volunteering, and occasionally writing humorous poems.

Preeti has a Bachelors in Management and Marketing from Georgia State University, along with a Project Management Certificate from Georgia Tech. She also has a certificate from the College Business Management Institute, Kentucky.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Nancy Sandlin

Senior Director of Development, Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering

Nancy leads the Stewart School of Industrial and Systems Engineering's fundraising team and works with alumni, foundations, corporations, and others to secure the resources needed to support faculty, students, and programs at Georgia Tech. Prior to joining ISyE, Nancy served on the fundraising teams for the College of Computing, and the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Nancy earned her Bachelor of Science in Management from Georgia Tech, with a concentration in Organizational Psychology and Marketing. She is a Georgia Tech Culture Champion (2020) and a Diversity and Inclusion Fellow (2020-21).



Emily Sharkey

Executive Director, MBA Admissions & Recruiting, Scheller College of Business

Emily provides operational and strategic management of the Full-time MBA and Evening MBA admission and recruiting teams. She also has strategic oversight for the MBA admissions office role in the Salesforce CRM system and implementation.

Prior to joining Georgia Tech, Emily worked at the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving as a Senior Strategy Associate. Before this role, she spent five years as an analyst at a private equity firm in Connecticut.

Emily earned her Master's in Arts Administration from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and holds a B.A. from Middlebury College in Vermont.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Jennifer Singh

Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies, School of History and Sociology, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Jennifer Singh is Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies in the School of History and Sociology, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts. Dr. Singh's research examines intersectional and structural inequities of autism diagnosis and services among Black communities in Georgia. She is director of Break the Cycle of Autism Disparities transdisciplinary working group and leads the development of public facing media and digital platforms designed to raise awareness of autism in underserved communities and geographic inequities in autism services in Georgia.



Stephanie Stephens

Director of Research Creative Services, Institute Communications

Before joining Georgia Tech, Stephanie spent 16 years working in the advertising industry in a variety of creative roles including Photo Stylist, Photographer, Designer, Art Director, and Creative Director for several Atlanta-based agencies. During this time, she collaborated with a variety of national retail and wholesale clients to develop compelling creative concepts and marketing strategies. In her current role, Stephanie leads a small team of creative professionals to amplify the impact of Georgia Tech's Research Enterprise. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Graphic Communications from Kennesaw State University.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Tanesha Steward

Assistant Chief Counsel and Director, Office of Affiliated Organizations, Office of the General Council

Tanesha Steward is Assistant Chief Counsel and Director of the Georgia Institute of Technology's Affiliated Organizations where she provides management and oversight of the Affiliated Organizations, a role created to advance Georgia Tech's strategic goals and priorities. In this role, Tanesha counsels and offers strategic guidance on capital projects, real estate, technology ventures, international operations and other business transactions. Tanesha ensures that their respective activities remain aligned with the strategic goals and priorities of Georgia Tech and in compliance with the policies of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

Prior to Georgia Tech, Tanesha was an Attorney with the Cobb County Attorney's Office and focused on Commercial Real Estate transactions, Construction law, and other Contractual matters.

Tanesha is a proud graduate of Howard University (Washington, D.C.) and received her J.D. from the University of Missouri School of Law (Columbia, Missouri). Before attending law school, Tanesha worked as a teacher with Teach for America in Atlanta, Georgia.



Carol Subiño Sullivan

Assistant Director of Faculty Teaching and Learning Initiatives, Center for Teaching and Learning

Carol supports instructors in designing and facilitating inclusive, student-centered learning environments that foster student success through Center for Teaching and Learning programs and events that disseminate information and model evidence-based teaching practices. She is a 2019 Diversity Champion and was recognized by a 2021 Staff Excellence award for her contributions to the Georgia Tech Remote and Hybrid Teaching Academy. Carol earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Indiana University. When not at work you can find her cycling through the city, dancing with Djoli Kelen, and playing with her daughter at the playground.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Becky Tankersley

Director of Communications, Enrollment Management

Becky leads the communication and marketing efforts for Enrollment Management, specifically focusing on communication strategy for Undergraduate Admission, the Office of Scholarships and Financial Aid, and the Office of Special Scholarships. During her 11 years at Tech she has served in a variety of roles, including Communications Manager and Assistant Director of Undergraduate Admission. Becky also serves on AACRAO leadership as a Community and Content Facilitator. Prior to her time at Tech, she worked in admission at Tusculum University, and served as a News Producer at WJHL-TV. Becky holds a bachelor's degree in Mass Communication from UNC Asheville and a Master of Arts in Organizational Training and Education from Tusculum University.



Ashlee Villarreal

Director of Operations, Georgia Tech Women's Basketball Georgia Tech Athletics

Ashlee Villarreal joined the Georgia Tech women's basketball staff in April of 2019 as the director of basketball operations. Villarreal arrived on The Flats from Central Michigan, where she spent the 2018-19 season in the same role. She begins her fifth season at Georgia Tech in 2023-24.

At Georgia Tech, Villarreal is responsible for team travel, coordinating team and staff calendars, scheduling facilities, managing equipment and team apparel, gameday operations, oversees team managers and graduate managers, and coordinates team meals. Additionally, she helps coordinate the annual team budget with the head coach. Villarreal also assists with all team camps during the summer and duties as assigned by the head coach.

A 2017 graduate of Texas Tech with a Bachelor of Science in sport management, Villarreal served as a graduate assistant for the Red Raiders for the 2017-18 season after graduation. A basketball letterwinner at Western Texas College (2014-15), she earned a master's degree in sport management from Texas Tech in 2019.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Serena Wallace

Director of Institute Events, Institute Communications

Serena serves as director of Institute events within Institute Communications. With the help of the Special Events and Protocol team, she leads Institute events including Commencement, New Student Convocation, honor lunches, town halls, and additional high-level events as well as run the Event Coordinators' Network. Serena brings almost 20 years of event planning experience to her role that includes wedding planning, venue management, and non-profit events. She holds a master's degree from Georgia State.



Joycelyn Wilson

Assistant Professor, School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Joycelyn Wilson earned a BS in Mathematics and PhD in Educational Anthropology (University of Georgia). Her MA is in Curriculum and Instruction (Pepperdine University). Following a visiting professorship, she joined Georgia Tech in 2017 as an assistant professor in Black Media Studies to teach and continue research in hip hop studies and digital media. Her current scholarship examines hip hop as a cultural phenomenon, its preservation in the American South, and the capabilities of applying hip hop inspired design methodologies to connect music and remix with education involving computing, engineering, technology, and media arts. Her scholarly and popular writings appear in the Handbook of Remix Studies and Digital Humanities, Proceedings of the American Society for Engineering Education Journal for Mathematics Education, and The Bitter Southerner. Her book project, Design Remixing What the South Said, is under contract and forthcoming from the University of Georgia Press.



LEADING WOMEN@TECH PARTICIPANTS

Mary Tipton Wooley

Senior Associate Director, Undergraduate Admission

Mary Tipton Woolley is the Senior Associate Director of Undergraduate Admission at Georgia Tech where she oversees First-year recruitment and application review, along with the Slate team. Prior to her arrival at Georgia Tech, Mary Tipton spent ten years at Emory University, where she ultimately served as Director of Enrollment Services at Oxford College. Mary Tipton holds a B.A. from Mississippi State University in Psychology, and a M.S. from Georgia State University in Urban Policy Studies. She lives in north Dekalb with her GT alum husband, eleven-year-old daughter and their pandemic puppy, Teddy.



Heather Zesiger

Director, Cultivate Well-Being Action and Transformation, Student Engagement and Wellbeing

Heather Zesiger, PhD, MPH, MCHES® is the inaugural Director, Cultivate Well-Being Action and Transformation. In this role she is the principal catalyst assisting all cabinet areas and colleges with effectively implementing the Cultivate Well-Being Roadmaps – for students and for faculty and staff. Dr. Zesiger has worked at the intersection of public health and higher education for more than 25 years, most recently, at the American College Health Association (ACHA) where she managed a CDC cooperative agreement. She previously worked in student affairs managing multidisciplinary teams providing health promotion and student support at Emory University and at The New School (NYC).





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