

IEEE WIELS 2021

PROGRAM



IEEE WIELS 2021 will bring together 200+ engineering leaders, researchers, educators, innovators, disruptors, and students to gather at the virtual conference to help advance the state of practice related to **work/life balance strategies**, **sustainability challenges** and **leadership vision**. Speakers will share real-life experiences and lessons learned. This summit would provide a platform to identify opportunities for improvement and networking.

SPONSORED BY



IEEE Region 4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------------------------|-------|----------|
| IEEE WIELS PARTNERS | | 3 |
| Welcome from Chair | | 4 |
| Planning Committee | | 5 |
| Program Agenda | | 6 |
| Speaker Information | | 8 |

IEEE WIELS 2021 planning committee would like to express its gratitude for the generous support received from the following

PLATINUM PARTNERS



GOLD PARTNER



MEDIA PARTNERS



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the 2021 IEEE Region 4 Women in Engineering Leadership Summit (WIELS) This Summit is made possible with the help from the Summit Planning Committee. The Planning Committee is made up of six IEEE WIE volunteers contributing their afterwork hours in the past three months to make the Summit a reality.

In 2020, we saw a massive adoption of “remote work from home” due to Covid 19. Driving time has significantly reduced, virtual work provided employees increased flexibility, however industry surveys showed employees have experienced higher stress and lost significant work/life balance. Sustainability has become a focal point for major organizations, can individuals make an impact too? Leadership in the digital era requires a fresh look, but how does that look like? I hope you will gain insight from listening in to our nineteen speakers and engage in meaningful dialogues with them on topics of work/life balance, leadership, and sustainability.

WIELS is the 3rd of its kind. 1st event took place in Oct. 2016 in Detroit, 2nd event in Oct. 2019 in Chicago, each event with 200+ attendees, all walked away inspired. I hope WIELS 2021 will help prepare your knowledge, understanding of the emerging trends, essential skills needed to advance, lead, and bring changes to your professional career in this ever-changing digital world!

Sincerely,

Liang Downey
2021 IEEE Region 4 Women in Engineering Leadership Summit Chair

IEEE WIELS 2021 Planning Committee



Loredana Abramo
Program Manager



Liang Downey
Summit Chair



Michelle Leonard
Sponsorship Chair



**Rajani Muraleedharan-
Sreekumaridevi PhD**
Outreach Chair



Kanika Saini
Finance Chair



Vickie Ozburn
Summit Advisor



Alev Tamer
Hosting Chair



Susanne Tedrick
Web Chair



Amy Higginson
Co-Hosting Chair

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

IEEE R4 Women in Engineering Leadership Summit - 2021

Friday, October 29, 2021

| | | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 8:15am - 8:30am | Welcome & Opening Remark | |
| 8:30am - 9:10am | Keynote: Engineering & Sustainability Shay Bahramirad Ph.D. VP of Climate and Resilience at Quanta Technology, LLC IEEE PES VP Of New Initiatives and Outreach | |
| 9:10am - 9:50am | Keynote: Balance and Equilibrium: One Scientist's Perspective on Life and Work Deborah Huntley Ph.D. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Saginaw Valley State University | |
| 9:50am - 10:00am | Coffee Break (10min) | |
| 10:00am - 12:00am | Track 1: Sustainability Meeting Room#1 | Track 2: Leadership Meeting Room#2 |
| 10:00am - 10:40am | Quality of life: the goal of smart city development Beverly Pasion Ph.D. Senior Scientist Institute for the Digital Transformation of Application & Living Domains, Dortmund University of Applied Sciences & Arts | Leadership in the Digital Era David Howe General Manager Services Practice Microsoft Scotland |
| 10:40am - 11:20am | Solar and Battery Global Manufacturing Simay Akar Chief Commercial Officer & Co-Founder Innoses | Work/Life and Wealth Kim Enders Principal Financial Advisor Enders Wealth Management |
| 11:20am - 12:00am | Sustainable Energy Global Development Emily Hazelwood Co-Founder of Blue Latitudes Amber Sparks Co-Founder of Blue Latitudes | Work/Life from a 100-Year-old IEEE Member Gus Gaynor VP of Education, IEEE Technology Engineering Management Society |
| 12:00am - 12:30pm | Lunch (30min) | |

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

| | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| 12:30pm - 1:10pm | Keynote: The Changing Face of Leadership Barry Shoop Dean, Albert Nerken School of Engineering, The Cooper Union & Former Director of the Electrical Engineering Program, West Point | |
| 1:10pm - 2:00pm | Track 1: Sustainability Meeting Room#1 | Track 2: Leadership Meeting Room#2 |
| 1:10pm - 1:50pm | Blockchain-based Supply Chain Platforms: Managing Climate Change Dawn Jutla CEO Peer Ledger | Leading a Balance: Innovation in Work and Life Amanda Mikhail Administrator Research at Mayo Clinic |
| 1:50pm - 2:00pm | Coffee Break (10min) | |
| 2:00pm - 2:40pm | Track 1: Sustainability Meeting Room#1 | Track 2: Leadership Meeting Room#2 |
| 2:00pm - 2:40pm | Employee Engagement Stephanie Woerner Research Scientist MIT Sloan Center for Information Systems Research | Design & Work Jeff Knurek Artest, Tribune Media Services Creator of Artwork for Syndicated Jumble Puzzle |
| 2:40pm - 3:20pm | KEYNOTE: Leadership Strategies that Drive a Workplace Culture of Engagement Joe Hart President and CEO Dale Carnegie | |
| 3:20pm - 3:30pm | Coffee Break (10min) | |
| 3:30pm - 4:30pm | Panel Discussion: Leadership in Uncertain Time Amy Seegmiller Renner, PhD, Chair, Greater Leadership Opportunities for Women- GLOW, Mayo Clinic Cori Fain, Chair of Women in Science and Engineering Research (WiSER), Mayo Clinic Lan Ye, Corporate Vice President, Microsoft Teams Calling, Meeting and Devices Susanne Tedrick, Author: Women of Color in Tech, Azure Specialist, Microsoft | |
| 4:30pm - 4:35pm | Adjourn | |

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INFORMATION

Engineering & Sustainability

Abstract

In this talk, Shay will talk about the need to develop future energy systems that are not only resilient against weather and climate disruptions but also sustainable for the long run.

Speaker Bio: Shay Bahramirad



Shay is IEEE PES VP Of New Initiatives and Outreach since 2017. She is an energy industry executive with verifiable continued success achieving strategic objectives for electric utilities, strategic partners, and community stakeholders. Extensive experience in building, cultivating, and leading diverse, cross-disciplinary teams in strategic planning, policy development, and design and implementation of transformative initiatives to achieve step-change business results. Globally recognized as an industry leader that is passionate in defining the next horizon of the electric utility industry – as evidenced by media mentions in industry, business and mainstream channels; primary author of white papers; speaker at industry conferences; and holder of U.S. patents. Passionate about mitigating climate change and driving social equity.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER INFORMATION

Balance and Equilibrium: One Scientist's Perspective on Life and Work

Abstract

The concept of work-life balance can be traced back to the early 20th century to an industrial engineer named Lillian Moller Gilbreath who recognized the “importance of addressing the psychological and emotional aspects of labor” (1) Dr. Gilbreath is popularly known as the mother of twelve from the comical book and movie “Cheaper by the Dozen.” Women have long struggled to balance the needs of the workplace, their own career and professional goals, with their personal and family lives. In this presentation, I will posit that the division between “work” and “life” is artificial and that it is important to address work-work and life-life balances along with work-life balance. I will share experiences (my own and those of other women I know) and offer perspectives, strategies, and suggestions for maintaining equilibrium at home and at work. I will also share thoughts on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on work-life balance and possible long-term changes.

1. <https://spectrum.ieee.org/learn-who-we-have-to-thank-for-the-term-worklife-balance> (accessed October 2021)

Speaker Bio: Dr. Deborah Huntley



Dr. Deborah Huntley serves as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan. She is the chief academic officer for the university which offers a comprehensive range of undergraduate and professional graduate programs. She also oversees the enrollment management and student affairs divisions. As Provost she is responsible for curriculum, assessment, planning, program development, accreditations, budgets, scheduling, personnel matters including faculty and staff development and evaluation, and student issues within the university. She has been a key leader in developing the STEM@SVSU programs and has been instrumental in raising over \$8M to support those initiatives. She also had a critical part in the university's successful application for status as a Carnegie Community Engagement University. She leads the university's student success initiatives, focusing on retention,

recruitment and academic reputation. She chairs the university promotion and tenure committee and is a member of the president's staff and planning council.

Prior to her current role as Provost, Dr. Huntley served for five years as the Dean of the College of Science, Engineering and Technology. In that role, she was the chief academic officer for the college. In addition, she chaired the university's undergraduate curriculum committee, was a member of the executive team that led the university-wide accreditation efforts and served as a voting member on the promotion and tenure committee. Prior to her deanship, she served for three years as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at SVSU where she played an important role in developing the university-wide program assessment efforts, for both general education and academic programs. She was instrumental in developing resource allocation priorities for all academic units that were linked directly to departmental goals and objectives. She developed a professional development program for new faculty, as well as a colloquium series that highlights outstanding scholarly work among faculty. As Associate Vice President, she chaired the campus wide technology committee, developing policies and processes for online instruction in its initial stages of implementation at the University, receiving a \$1.8 M Title III grant from the U.S. Department of Education to support infrastructure for instructional technology and training.

She assumed leadership roles in two re-accreditation cycles of the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), and worked closely with academic departments on CAEP, ABET, AACSB, CCNE and other specialized accreditations. She currently serves as a member of the peer review corp for the HLC. She has experience with collective bargaining, having negotiated two faculty association contracts as a member of the administrative team.

Dr. Huntley holds the rank of Professor of Chemistry at Saginaw Valley State University, where she was the 2006 recipient of the Warrick Award for Research Excellence and the 2006 Rush Distinguished Lecturer. Her background is in physical and inorganic chemistry, with interests in elucidating mechanisms of surface reactions relevant to heterogeneous catalysis using both ultrahigh vacuum surface analysis and density functional methods. She was a visiting scientist at Cornell University from 2004-2006 and held the position of senior research scientist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1983-1998.

Dr. Huntley earned her Ph.D. in Chemistry from Cornell University in 1984 and her Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, summa cum laude, from the University of Connecticut in 1979. She was a charter member of the leadership team of the Saginaw Tittabawassee Rivers Contamination Community Advisory Group for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, serving on the leadership team for 4 years. She also serves on the board of directors for the SVSU Foundation and the Marshall M. Fredericks Sculpture Museum, the United Way of Saginaw County, and the Field Neuroscience Institute. She has been active in educational outreach at many levels.

Dr. Huntley and her husband Al Huntley have lived in Saginaw Township since 1998. They have two grown children. Dr. Huntley enjoys music, photography, cooking, the outdoors, and literature.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Quality of life: the goal of smart city development

Abstract

At the heart of future cities, one must find a reflection of the diverse qualities, interests, challenges and aspirations of its citizens. Continuously improving a citizen's quality of life should be the priority and can come through robust digital transformation and collaboration on projects and programmes.

Addressing city complexities is not easy and must be an ongoing effort of research, industry and government stakeholders in close collaboration with its citizens. A key challenge is to find ways how to combine the different players within complex project ecosystems. We must find ways to share our thoughts, questions and project insights in order to create a sustainable future that serves us all.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Beverly Pasain



Dr. Beverly Pasain has a 25+ year career in the public sector and higher education based on the pillars of online education, project management and now, smart cities. To maximize her expertise in these areas, her education includes two master's degrees (in education and business), a Doctorate in Project Management (2011) and a Doctorate in Business Administration (2022).

Dr. Beverly Pasain, MA(ODE), DPM, EMBA, PhD (2022); Senior Scientist (*Focus: Quality of Life in Smart Cities*); Institute for the Digital Transformation of Application & Living Domains (IDiAL); Dortmund University of Applied Sciences & Arts. Beverly Pasain chairs the 5-years Conference series for the IEEE European Technology and Engineering Management Summit, and the author of several best selling books on Project Management".

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Leadership in the Digital Era

Speaker Bio: David Howe



David Howe is a General Manager at Microsoft Consulting Services in EMEA. He is an accomplished strategic leader who is passionate about implementing new businesses that deliver long term, sustainable results.

People development is central to David's approach, ensuring people have an environment where they can do their best work and grow their careers.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Solar and Battery Global Manufacturing

Speaker Bio: Simay Akar



Simay Akar is an entrepreneur in the energy industry. She specialized in solar PV manufacturing, battery storage for electric vehicles, renewable energy technologies, and clean energy market development. Akar is currently the Chief Commercial Officer & Co-Founder at Innoses.

Her past roles include Sales & Marketing Director of EkoRE – Eko Renewable Energy and Marketing & Business Development Director of GoodWe Turkey, Head of Overseas Marketing at Talesun Solar. Akar has worked in China and Turkey and mostly focused on international commercial activities and has been employed by CSUN Eurasia, Schneider Electric, Arcelik (BEKO), and Lucida Solar.

She is an IEEE Senior member. She has volunteered for IEEE since 2007. Simay is a graduate of Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey. She participated Energy Innovation and Emerging Technologies Program at Stanford University.

<https://www.simayakar.com/>

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Work, Life and Wealth

Abstract

A conversation about work/life balance in modern workplace/family life. Kim has crafted a hypothesis of how balance isn't a destination...but a journey. We'll discuss the two ideals she uses to live a work/life balance and 5 action steps everyone can take to help find it in your life today.

Speaker Bio: Kimberly Enders



Working in the financial services industry since 1995, Kimberly Enders is CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ with firsthand knowledge in most areas of personal finance. Ms. Enders has been a financial planner for over 25 years, having worked in the banking, insurance, and stock brokerage fields. Along with her insurance and FINRA general securities registrations, Kimberly holds a general principal registration and meets the fiduciary standard. Her CFP® Marks can now be verified on the blockchain.

Kimberly graduated from Michigan State University, earning her bachelor's degree in 1995. While raising her family, she earned a master career development certificate through Northwestern University followed by earning her CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Marks in 2014. Always a lover of learning, Kimberly continued her education by studying the Cannon Financial Institute's 13 Wealth Management Program, earning her Certified Wealth Strategist™ designation in 2018. That deep passion for education launched a motivational speaking career in 2020, teaching time-tested concepts for sales cultures and the financial services industry. Currently, Kimberly is the lead Financial Planner, Portfolio Manager and Managing Partner at Enders Wealth Management in Sterling Heights, MI.

Striving to stay active in her community and her industry, Kimberly maintains memberships with the Financial Planning Association (FPA) of Michigan, #GirlBoss Detroit, lifetime member of the American Association of University Woman (AAUW) and is a past Chairman of the Shelby Community Foundation. Kim has lived her entire life in the Metro Detroit Area, but she enjoys traveling around the world frequently with family. She was last spotted in the Smokey Mountains of North Carolina.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Sustainable Energy Global Development

Abstract

Offshore energy development has led to the installation of thousands of offshore oil and gas platforms throughout the world's oceans. Many of these platforms are aging relics, leftover designs from an era in hot pursuit of developing and extracting the world's offshore oil reserves, with the expectation that they would be removed and disposed of at the end of their economic life. Over the decades that these structures have been in place, many have developed thriving reef ecosystems that provide habitat for certain commercially viable fish species. Traditional decommissioning involves the complete removal of platform infrastructure from the seafloor, resulting in loss of habitat and destruction of the marine ecosystems that have colonized the structure over its operational lifespan. However, complete removal is not the only option. In this presentation, we will discuss the alternative of repurposing offshore oil and gas platforms into artificial reefs and dive into the sustainability of this process, overviewing the opportunities and challenges from an economic, ecological, and social perspective.

Speaker Bio: Emily Hazelwood



Emily is a marine conservation biologist and offshore energy consultant. She has a B.A. in Environmental Science from Connecticut College and an M.A.S degree in Marine Biodiversity and Conservation from Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Emily was recognized on Forbes 30 Under 30 list in the energy sector for her work with Blue Latitudes to develop sustainable, creative, and cost-effective solutions for the environmental issues that surround the offshore energy industry.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Wisdom From a 100 Year Old IEEE Member

Abstract

Work Life challenges require an understanding of one's personal needs, talents and limitations, family considerations, world business environment, economic conditions, and a mental attitude to deal with a host of unknown and unexpected events that tend to disrupt plans for progressing toward a desirable Work Life. Building a sustainable Work Life requires personal management of the obstacles that prevent achieving one's expectations. The road to that desired Work Life will be paved with challenges that must be overcome. Having lived through seven generations I've learned how to mitigate some obstacles but not all. Gus Gaynor provides some guidance to meet your Work Life expectations.

Speaker Bio: Guy Gaynor



Celebrating his 100th birthday this year, Gus has been a long time IEEE member, actively involved with various IEEE committees and boards for over 75 years. Prior to retirement from corporate America, Gas was 3M's Innovation Director who led major engineering product breakthroughs. Gus served as Founding Editor and Editor-in-Chief of Today's Engineer, President of the Engineering Management Society. He currently is VP of Education, IEEE Technology and Engineering Management.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

The Changing Face of Leadership

Abstract

Technology has reshaped our world repeatedly since the foundations of IEEE were laid over a century ago; it continues to reshape it today. Recently, however, the role and influence of technology on the human experience has fundamentally changed. Previously, technology played a secondary and supportive role while social, political and cultural dimensions played a primary role. Today, technology is actually leading these dimensions in the influence on humanity. To be successful in this changed environment, increased emphasis and value is being placed on written and oral communication skills, teamwork, critical thinking, innovation and entrepreneurship. While some leadership skills are immutable, there are others that technology professionals will need to add to be competitive and successful.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Barry L. Shoop



Dr. Barry L. Shoop, Ph.D., P.E., is Dean of Engineering at the Albert Nerken School of Engineering at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Engineering in Manhattan, NY. In this capacity he leads the largest of The Cooper Union's schools which is comprised of seven academic departments supporting an average enrollment of roughly 480 undergraduate and another 60 graduate students.

Prior to his current position, he retired as a Brigadier General after a 39-year career in the U.S. Army, with the last 25 years at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. While at West Point, he served in a number of key leadership roles including Director of the Photonics Research Center, Director of the Electrical Engineering Program and his last position was Professor and Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.

Earlier in his career, he was a satellite communication engineer responsible for the design and installation of a high-capacity, global digital communication network, and also the Chief Technology Officer for a US\$4.5B organization addressing the Improvised Explosive Device (IED) challenge worldwide.

Dr. Shoop received the B.S. degree from the Pennsylvania State University and Ph.D. from Stanford University, both in electrical engineering. His research interests include optical information

processing, neural networks, image processing, disruptive innovations and educational pedagogy. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), the Optical Society of America (OSA) and the International Society for Optical Engineering (SPIE) and a member of Phi Kappa Phi, Eta Kappa Nu, and Sigma Xi. He has served on the Board of Directors of OSA, ABET and IEEE. In 2016 Dr. Shoop served as the IEEE President and CEO. In 2008, OSA recognized him with their Robert E. Hopkins Leadership Award and, in 2013, he received both the SPIE Educator Award and the IEEE Haraden Pratt Award. Dr. Shoop holds a patent on photonic analog-to-digital conversion and has authored over 150 archival publications as well as 8 books and book chapters. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, USA. In 2019, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Blockchain-based Supply Chain Platforms: Managing Climate Change

Abstract

Today governments, CEOs, and investors are prioritizing the transformation of their organizations to net zero or positive. They assess, adopt, and report the CO₂e savings of carbon-neutralizing project initiatives according to international sustainability standards. Yet surveys show most reporting organizations do not measure 70-90% of their carbon emissions today. The root cause is opacity in their inbound and outbound supply chains. Adoption of innovations such as smart blockchain-based platforms for supply chain ESG traceability can close this glaring measurement loophole by enabling organizations to get actual measurements of their carbon spend. Will executives be more fearful of their corrected sustainability results, given a new capability for comprehensive and accurate CO₂e measurements, or the dire consequences of a warmer planet?

Speaker Bio: Dr. Dawn Jutla



Dr. Dawn Jutla is Chief Executive Officer of Peer Ledger, a blockchain company targeting primarily Pharma, Healthcare, and Government sectors. Her other hats are as the Scotiabank Professor, and founder/director of the graduate Technology Entrepreneurship & Innovation program at Saint Mary's University. Dawn received her Master and PhD degrees in Computer Science on the topics of distributed systems and access control protocols from the Technical University of Nova Scotia. She has expertise in designing blockchain applications, privacy and security, and business and technology strategy and management. Her company has implemented a SAFE-Bio Pharma standards-compliant Blockchain Identity Translation (BIT) platform for system administrators and software developers to manage user identities, strong multi-factor authentication, unification, delegation, and portable identity services in a secure Peer Wallet for both mobile and web. Dawn currently sits on the Board of Directors at the OASIS Open international standards organization, and on the Board of the IWK Health Centre.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Leading a Balance: Innovation in Work and Life

Abstract

Engineers by nature are both integrators and problem solvers. This unique skill set prepares us well to prioritize, balance, and integrate our life goals with our career growth and progression. This talk will share aspects of my own journey through various aspects of growing responsibility in two different industries, technology and healthcare. It will also touch on the benefit of a problem solving, integration and optimization mindset to balancing the challenging demands of a career in R & D with the needs of being a mom, wife, and leader in the community.

Speaker Bio: Amanda Mikhail



Amanda is the Department of Medicine (DOM) Administrative Lead for Research at Mayo Clinic, responsible for growing DOM capabilities in innovation, basic science, and clinical research.

She has 20+ years in large scale R&D, including modeling, testing/validation, new product introduction and joint venture product development within the tech industry. 25+ US patent issues and named IBM Master Inventor. She Serves on a College of Engineering advisory board for a major public university. Serves on a K-12 STEM advisory board in partnership with 20+ Southeast Minnesota school districts. Serves on Women United Exec – United Way of Olmsted County.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Employee Engagement

Abstract

A workforce that is confident to solve complex problems in a digital environment is a future-ready workforce. Companies with a future-ready workforce integrate their efforts to both digitize work and build the digital fitness of their enterprise in ways that empower its people to deliver value. This session will describe what companies do to create a future-ready workforce and how employees can begin to identify/evaluate a supportive, empowering workplace.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Stephanie L. Woerner



Stephanie L. Woerner, Ph.D. is a Research Scientist at the Center for Information Systems Research (CISR) at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Stephanie studies how companies use technology and data to create more effective business models and how they manage the associated organizational change. Her co-authored articles include “Thriving in an Increasingly Digital Ecosystem,” (named one of the top articles of the decade by SMR), “It Pays to Have a Digitally Savvy Board,” and “Does Your C-Suite Have Enough Digital Smarts?” in *Sloan Management Review*. In 2018 Stephanie and Peter Weill published *What’s Your Digital Business Model? Six questions to help you build the next generation enterprise*, (Harvard Business Review Press, 2018).

Stephanie, Peter Weill and Ina Sebastian are writing a book on digital business transformation due out in Fall 2022. She earned her Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Design and Work

Abstract

As a self-employed designer, cartoonist, and musician, I developed a structure and routine from my home studio that enabled my creativity for the past 30 years. Communication, whether by email, telephone, text messages, social media, and video conferencing, has been key in connecting with creative minds over the years. This has never been more true than it has been in a pandemic world. During the global shut down, I started with an idea to connect with others and used my artistic skills to sketch out these thoughts. The result was a “human union” with 1,100 members who value kindness, diversity, music, art, and most importantly, supporting others impacted by pandemic. In 8 months, these united humans have collectively raised over \$50k for various charities and developed new friendships along the way. I will share how my creative skills inspire others to use their personal skills for a greater good. I will talk about how by simply asking yourself the question, “What if...?”, you can push yourself to look beyond the obvious and creatively solve problems in every aspect of life. I will also discuss how I have managed to balance working from home, raising a family and more, while maintaining a career that has creatively thrived.

Speaker Bio: Jeff Knurek



Jeff Knurek, Jumble puzzle cartoonist, is an award-winning toy and game inventor, consumer product developer, graphic artist, illustrator, musician, puzzle creator and cartoonist. Knurek’s first game invention to make it to market, in 1989, was the outdoor game, Spikeball. Spikeball has become one of the fastest growing sports in the world and can be seen on campuses, beaches and parks across the globe. His other game credits include Family Fun magazine’s “Toy of the Year” award winners: “What’s In Ned’s Head?” and “Monster Under My Bed.”

In 2008, Jeff Knurek became only the third artist to draw the popular Jumble puzzle cartoon, seen in more than 600 newspapers since 1954. He took over the art duties for Jumble, when the great Henri Arnold retired. Knurek’s unique humor and style can be seen in the caricatures and fun pop culture references placed throughout his

cartoons.

Jeff has recently created adult and children’s coloring books and an e-comic series with the young electrical engineering superheroes, the Tesla Twins for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics

Engineers (IEEE-USA). Knurek utilized patterns and illustrations of engineering icons to create a creative and relaxing experience for members.

Knurek's hometown is Southgate, Michigan. He has lived in Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. Knurek received a B.F.A. in Industrial Design, with an Art Education certification, from the University of Michigan. In 2007, he donated a kidney to a family member with Polycystic Kidney Disease, and both are doing great. Knurek currently resides with his wife, son, daughter, and 2 dogs in Fishers, Indiana.

SPEAKER INFORMATION

Leadership Strategies that Drive a Workplace Culture of Engagement

Abstract

Everyone has been pushed to the limit by the global health crisis. Stress and worry have been compounded by the rapid rate of change. However, within the crisis came a greater recognition of the importance of psychological safety, well-being and work-life balance in the workplace. Leaders now have the opportunity to better equip people to manage change, deal effectively with stress, and recognize growth opportunities. As the intensity of the pandemic fades and economies grow, we need to refocus on our leadership and communication skills and become better equipped to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Learn leadership strategies that can help you improve your own leadership and communication skill allowing you to step up and take command!

Speaker Bio: Joe Hart



Becoming CEO of Dale Carnegie in 2015, Joe has continued to lead the effort that has helped thousands of organizations and millions of individuals take command—of their businesses, their careers, and their futures.

Joe started his career as a practicing attorney at two prominent firms where he focused on contract-related litigation. In 1998, he joined The Taubman Company, developer of regional shopping centers, becoming Development Director. In 2000, he followed a dream and started a venture and angel-backed e-Learning company called InfoAlly. In 2005, Joe sold InfoAlly and went on to co-found and become president of AssetHealth.

PANELIST INFORMATION

Panel: Leadership in Times of Uncertainty

Speaker Bio: Dr. Amy Seegmiller Renner



Amy Seegmiller Renner, M.S., PhD, is the Director of Director of Diversity and Anti-Racism Curriculum in the Office of Education Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and an Assistant Professor for the Mayo Clinic College of Medicine and Science (MCCMS). Dr. Seegmiller Renner leads college-wide efforts to strengthen the overall health professions education curriculum (management, application of education theory to practice, instructional coaching, and faculty development) to support the diversity and anti-racism goals identified by the College and Mayo Clinic. She serves as a strategist working with MCCMS deans and faculty leaders to assess, design, implement, and evaluate a comprehensive and integrated diversity and anti-racism curriculum that supports the

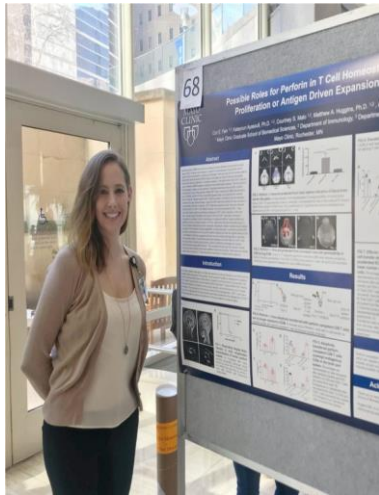
diversity goals of schools within MCCMS. Dr. Seegmiller Renner completed her PhD in Adult Education in 2017 with her dissertation focusing on the utilization of role modeling to assist with the development of empathy.

Dr. Seegmiller Renner is the Chair for the Greater Leadership Opportunities for Women (GLOW) Mayo Employee Resource Group (MERG). The GLOW MERG provides a network for women to support each other to develop and refine their leadership knowledge, skills, and attributes; connects employees with senior leaders; and advocates for equitable policies to better the organization. In her role, Amy leads the strategic direction of the GLOW MERG to fulfill its mission and goals to actively support the leadership development of women through formal and informal professional development activities, mentoring/coaching, networking and community outreach.

PANELIST INFORMATION

Panel: Leadership in Times of Uncertainty

Speaker Bio: Cori Fain



Cori is the President, Social Media Coordinator / Historian of Women in Science and Engineering Research (WiSER) at Mayo Clinic.

She is a PhD student in the Neuroimmunology lab of Dr. Aaron Johnson at the Mayo Clinic. Cori's research is focused on understanding immune-mediated blood-brain barrier (BBB) disruption and immune-cell interactions at the barrier during multiple pathologies. Cori has been involved in many fields of research in the biomedical sciences in a career that has spanned over 15 years. Cori has also been long dedicated to increasing diversity in science and has served in many positions throughout the years including; diversity blog writer for the American Society for Microbiology (ASM), National Liaison for Mayo (SACNAS) Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science, Social Media Historian and president of Women in Science and Engineering Research (WiSER) at Mayo Clinic along with many others.

PANELIST INFORMATION

Panel: Leadership in Times of Uncertainty

Speaker Bio: Lan Ye



As Corporate Vice President of Microsoft Teams Calling, Meeting and Devices, Lan Ye leads the engineering team responsible for Microsoft Teams calling and meetings products, as well as Microsoft Teams devices and peripherals for personal and shared spaces. Lan's multi-disciplinary team of engineers are charged with making calling and meetings simpler, more inclusive and dependably reliable for millions of Microsoft Teams customers.

Lan joined Microsoft in 1998 as a software development engineer and has worked on a wide range of consumer and enterprise products including Windows Media, Digital Rights Management and Windows Phone. As part of her work with Microsoft Lync and Skype, she led the convergence and transformation of Microsoft's Unified Communication strategy from Skype for Business to Microsoft Teams.

Lan graduated with a bachelor's degree in computer science and studio arts from Middlebury College.

PANELIST INFORMATION

Panel: Leadership in Times of Uncertainty

Speaker Bio: Susanne Tedrick



Susanne is fiercely committed to increasing the participation of women and people of color in STEM professions. Susanne is the author of the critically acclaimed *Women of Color in Tech: A Blueprint for Inspiring and Mentoring the Next Generation of Technology Innovators* for publisher John Wiley & Sons (2020) and performs community service work for a number of non-profits, including serving as Vice-Chair of the Advancing Tech Talent and Diversity Executive Council for CompTIA and coalition member for NPower's Command Shift initiative.

Susanne is the winner of CompTIA's 2020 Diversity Technology Leader Spotlight Award, for her advocacy for increased diversity, equity, and inclusion in the tech industry. Susanne is also the host of Wiley's "Diversity in Tech" webinar series.

She is an infrastructure specialist for Azure, Microsoft's cloud computing platform. In her work, Susanne helps her clients in their efforts to migrate and optimize their IT infrastructures to cloud environments. Previously, she worked as a technical specialist for IBM Cloud.