INSTITUTE DIVERSITY
FACES OF INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE
2018
About This Publication

Institute Diversity is proud to publish *Faces of Inclusive Excellence* each year. The publication recognizes a diverse group of faculty, staff, and students who are committed to advancing a culture of inclusive excellence at Georgia Tech and who have distinguished themselves in their research, teaching, and service.

Each year, *Faces of Inclusive Excellence* is distributed at Georgia Tech’s Diversity Symposium. The theme of this year’s 10th Annual Diversity Symposium is “Building Inclusive Communities: The Path Forward — Together,” which will explore the progress made and the challenges that remain in the interrelated areas of academics, health and well-being, and student and community life.

Congratulations to this year’s honorees — the real faces of inclusive excellence.
The honorees featured here, whether they are instructional or research faculty, staff members, or graduate or undergraduate students, all have one thing in common: The excellence attained in their research, teaching, and/or service has earned them distinctions from their peers within their respective fields.

When you drill deeper into the source of Georgia Tech’s greatness, this diverse group of faculty, staff, and students reveals the true image of inclusive excellence.

We are pleased to honor them by recognizing their accomplishments here. Their perspectives and achievements contribute to our culture of excellence in all its forms, and we look forward to celebrating their successes as we work together to continue building an inclusive community at Georgia Tech.

Archie W. Ervin
Vice President
Institute Diversity
Dear Honorees:

Georgia Tech’s global reputation stems not just from our students, who come from 141 countries and all 50 states, but also from the work of the diverse community that calls the Institute home. We are strengthened by the presence of individuals with wide-ranging backgrounds, perspectives, and areas of expertise.

Through this publication, we are celebrating the diversity of your accomplishments. You, along with hundreds of others, are excelling in research, teaching, and/or service and making a tremendous, positive impact on our campus and society.

We congratulate you and encourage you to continue serving as an inspiration on Georgia Tech’s inclusive journey.
**Maryam Alavi**
Dean and Stephen P. Zelnak Jr. Chair
Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business

Named Woman of the Year for the Mid-Size Organization and Educational Institution by Women in Technology and established the Annual Scheller College Diversity and Inclusion Panel

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**Melissa Arceneaux**
Assistant Director of Administrative Operations
Procurement and Business Services

Served as the faculty/staff liaison for the Women of Georgia Tech Employee Resource Group and participated in the Inclusive Leaders Academy and Safe Space training

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**Frans Barends**
Senior Director of Procurement and Business Services
Procurement and Business Services

Promoted diversity in hiring practices

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**Ghassan AlRegib**
Professor
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Received the Steven A. Denning Faculty Award for Global Engagement, led a team that is organizing the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ Video and Image Processing Cup, and served as president of U-Beyond Mentorship
**William Benjamin**  
Research Engineer II  
Georgia Tech Research Institute

*Served as the outreach council lead for the Georgia Tech Research Institute’s Diversity and Inclusion Division and attended the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Training Institute*

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**Nisha Botchwey**  
Associate Professor  
School of City and Regional Planning

*Received the College of Design’s Outstanding Faculty Award and served as a faculty participant in the SURE Program and panelist for OMED workshops*

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**Edward Botchwey**  
Associate Professor  
Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering

*Served as a faculty participant in the SURE Program and co-director of the National Science Foundation’s Southeast region workshop for graduate students and supported the African-American Male Initiative*

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**Jeremy Brown**  
Residence Hall Director  
Department of Housing

*Led marketing and recruitment initiatives to attract new student leaders and groups*
**Larry T. Brown**  
Coordinator for Staff and Community Development, Leadership, and Advising  
Department of Housing  

Served as the advisor for the Residence Hall Association and chair of the diversity committee for the Department of Housing.

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**Carrie Bruce**  
Senior Research Scientist  
School of Interactive Computing  

Received grant to work with students with disabilities to design accessible online physics simulations.

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**John Edgar Browning**  
Visiting Lecturer  
School of Literature, Media, and Communication  

Served as a juror for Art on the Atlanta BeltLine.

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**Chris Burke**  
Director of Community Relations  
Government and Community Relations  

Taught courses on the importance of building community and serving others and hosted middle school students from Title I schools.
MADISON CARIO
Director
Office of the Arts

Brought acceptance of the arts as a tool for understanding the value of diversity as well as innovation

LIZANNE DESTEFANO
Executive Director
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing
Professor
School of Psychology

Appointed as an inaugural member of the National Science Foundation’s STEM Education Advisory Panel

KRYSTINA CHATFIELD
Program and Operations Manager
Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain

Launched and coordinated the Serve-Learn-Sustain student internship program

GLENDA DUNCAN
Administrative Manager II
Strategic Energy Institute

Coordinated the first collaborative event on renewable and cleaner energy with the American Association of Blacks in Energy and Women’s Energy Network
JACQUELINE FAIRLEY
Research Engineer II
Georgia Tech
Research Institute

Appointed as the fundraising chairperson for the Broadening Participation in Data Mining Workshop and served as an editorial advisory board member for the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science

MARY FRANK FOX
ADVANCE Professor
School of Public Policy

Elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

LA TURESE FERGUSON
Manager of Workplace Learning and Professional Development
Office of Human Resources

Launched MentorTech: Professional Partnerships

STEFAN FRANCE
Associate Professor
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Led an inclusive and diverse research group
Terrance Gresham
MBA Recruitment Manager
Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business

Co-led the Scheller Diversity and Inclusion Council and developed partnerships with external organizations, including Management Leadership for Tomorrow, National Black MBA, and Prospanica.

Martha Grover
Professor
School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Received the David Himmelblau Award for Innovations in Computer-Based Chemical Engineering Education.

Rebecca “Beki” Grinter
Professor
School of Interactive Computing

Completed Level 2 of the Level Up: An Advanced Allyship Course training.

Bryan Harber
Training Generalist II
Office of Human Resources

Partnered on an initiative to create a guidebook for transgender employees in transition and their support systems.
Christine Heitsch
Professor
School of Mathematics

Served as the director for the Southeast Center for Mathematics and Biology, supported by the National Science Foundation and the Simons Foundation.

Jennifer Hirsch
Director
Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain

Launched and led the equity work group as part of the Academic and Research Council for the Kendeda Building for Innovative Sustainable Design.

Sheila Isbell
Chief of the Software Engineering and Analytics Division
Georgia Tech Research Institute

Advocated for the hiring of individuals from diverse educational backgrounds and co-led the local chapter of AnitaB.org.

Tracy Jones
Grants Administrator
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Passed Certified Research Administrator exam.
**Angela Keys**  
Administrative Supervisor  
Center for Career Discovery and Development  

Participated in the Diversity and Inclusion Fellows Program and developed a pilot program to provide mentorship opportunities for underrepresented minority women students at Georgia Tech.

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**Hyesoon Kim**  
Associate Professor  
School of Computer Science  

Served as co-program committee chair for the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and Association for Computing Machinery International Symposium on Microarchitecture.

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**Anna Joo Kim**  
Assistant Professor  
School of City and Regional Planning  

Received the Georgia Tech Fund for Innovation in Research and Education Award and the Scholar Prize within the William R. and June Dale Prize for Excellence in Urban and Regional Planning.

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**Jennifer Leavey**  
Senior Academic Professional  
School of Biological Sciences  
Director  
Urban Honey Bee Project  

Led the Urban Honey Bee Project, Bee-INSPIRED Summer Program, and STEMcomm VIP.
JOSEPH LEDOUX
Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Undergraduate Learning and Experience
Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering

Served as the principal investigator of the Coulter Department’s RED grant from the National Science Foundation

KATIE LLOYD
Executive Director of MBA Admissions
Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business

Led full-time MBA recruiting efforts that resulted in a significant increase in MBA students from diverse backgrounds and developed partnerships with Forté Foundation and Management Leadership for Tomorrow

DONG LIU
Associate Professor of Organizational Behavior
Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business

Selected as a “Best 40 Under 40 Business Professor” by Poets and Quants and served as a member of the Scheller Diversity and Inclusion Council

ANNE LYNCH
Communications Manager
Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business

Served as a committee member of the Transformative Narratives and participated in the Inclusive Leaders Academy
**Fariah Majmundar**  
Administrative Manager II  
School of Modern Languages  

*Led initiatives to enhance employee interactions*

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**Daniel Moreno**  
Ph.D. Candidate  
George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering  

*Served as president of the American Society of Engineering Education and received the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists fellowship*

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**Robert McCloud**  
Academic Program Coordinator II  
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry  

*Promoted cross-cultural understanding, respect, and inclusion in the Research Experiences for Undergraduates program*

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**Brenda Morris**  
Corporate Relations Manager  
Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering  

*Advanced a culture of inclusivity*
**Sherry Murray**  
Area Manager  
Department of Housing  
Co-created diversity, equity, and inclusion trainings for Department of Housing residents and staff

**Chukwuemeka Obikwelu**  
Ph.D. Candidate  
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
Founded African Graduate Students Connect@Georgia Tech

**Elizabeth Mynatt**  
Distinguished Professor  
College of Computing  
Executive Director  
Institute for People and Technology  
Led opportunities for College of Computing faculty to connect to research collaborators in the Atlanta area

**Brittney Odoi**  
Diversity Consultant  
Georgia Tech Research Institute  
Launched the Diversity and Inclusion Council, SURE@GTRI, Women@GTRI, Trans-Inclusive Language and Best Practices Workshops, and Safe Space trainings at GTRI
Christopher Parsons
Director of Education, Outreach, and Diversity
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Collaborated with VOICE to offer trainings for the Undergraduate Summer Research Program and members of the Center for Chemical Evolution

Ruth Poproski
Assistant Director of Faculty Teaching and Learning Initiatives
Center for Teaching and Learning

Led faculty teaching initiatives for the inclusion of postdoctoral fellows from diverse backgrounds

Alexander Pegues
Undergraduate Student
George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

Received the Valerie Dial Thomas Unsung Hero Student Leader Award from the Georgia Tech Black Alumni Organization

Shaheen Rana
Research Associate II
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing

Led the evaluation of the GoSTEM program
**Ursula Reynolds**  
Associate Director of the Doctoral Program  
Ernest Scheller Jr. College of Business  

Served on the application review committee for The Ph.D. Project and participated in the Inclusive Leaders Academy

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**Leslie Ross**  
Academic Program Manager I  
School of Public Policy  

Received the Outstanding Undergraduate Academic Advising Award – Staff by Georgia Tech and the Outstanding Advising Award by the National Academic Advising Association

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**Susan Roche**  
Research Administration Manager  
Office of the Executive Vice President for Research  

Served as communications chair for the Women of Georgia Tech Employee Resource Group

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**Christopher Ruiz**  
Area Manager  
Department of Housing  

Served as a facilitator of Safe Space and volunteer for the Atlanta Pride Festival and completed the Level Up: An Advanced Allyship Course training
Caitlyn Seim
Ph.D. Candidate
School of Interactive Computing

Served as a member and panelist for AccessComputing and AccessSTEM and as an instructor at the Center for the Visually Impaired

Nahom Solomon
Undergraduate Student
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Served on the Google Cloud Academic All-American Men’s Cross Country/Track Team and named Georgia Tech Male Athlete of the Year and Atlantic Coast Conference Men’s Cross Country Scholar Athlete of the Year

Cassandra Smith
Faculty Support Coordinator
School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Served as a GT 1000 instructor to teach a Serve-Learn-Sustain section

Marilyn Somers
Director of the Georgia Tech Living History Program
Georgia Tech Alumni Association

Featured stories from 28 African-American alumni on Georgia Tech Living History Program’s Facebook page during Black History Month
Julia Sonnenberg-Klein
Assistant Director of the Vertically Integrated Projects Program
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Presented at the Collaborative Network for Engineering and Computing Diversity Conference of the American Society for Engineering Education

John Stein
Vice President for Student Life and Brandt-Fritz Dean of Students Chair
Division of Student Life

Served as co-chair of the Black Student Experience Task Force and presented at the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education Annual Conference

Collin Spencer
Undergraduate Student
School of Biological Sciences

Served as the external relations chair for the Mental Health Student Coalition and as a member of the Campus Culture Action Team

Yuanzhi Tang
Assistant Professor
School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences

Served as the principal investigator of a grant from the National Science Foundation’s Innovations at the Nexus of Food, Energy, and Water Systems program and appointed as a fellow of the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems
CASSANDRA TELENKO
Assistant Professor
George W. Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering

Participated in NAE Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium and elected as a fellow of the Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems

SIDDHARTH VARUGHES
Ph.D. Candidate
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Received the Student Staff Members of the Year Award from the Department of Housing

CAROL THURMAN
Academic Assessment Manager
Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain

Advanced the Center’s efforts to educate students about the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

QI WANG
Associate Professor
School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Served as a mentor to students and created inclusive communities
**Rachel Watts**  
Training Specialist II  
Office of Human Resources  
Served as a facilitator of Safe Space

**Jeanine Williams**  
Undergraduate Student  
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Received the Arthur Ashe Junior Scholar Award, named an All-American Athlete, and volunteered with Girls on the Run

**Jamie White-Jones**  
Senior Administrative Professional  
Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain  
Served as a GT 1000 instructor to teach a Serve-Learn-Sustain section

**Corey Wilson**  
Associate Professor  
School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
Served on the graduate admissions committee and as a keynote speaker at the African-American Male Initiative Academic Empowerment Fair and Expo
Nitra Wisdom
Academic Advisor II
School of Architecture
Co-organized the Hip Hop Architecture Camp and Afrofuturism and Gentrification Panel

Ruthie Yow
Service Learning and Partnerships Specialist
Center for Serve-Learn-Sustain
Developed the inaugural Sustainable Communities Internship Seminar
National Rankings

In addition to being consistently ranked among the top 10 public universities in the United States and most innovative universities by *U.S. News & World Report*, Georgia Tech is a recognized leader in the recruitment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented minority students.

According to the 2017 rankings from *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, Georgia Tech is ranked:

- **No. 1** for awarding bachelor’s degrees in engineering to all underrepresented minority students
- **No. 1** for awarding master’s degrees in architecture to African-American students
- **No. 1** for awarding doctoral degrees in engineering to all underrepresented minority students
- **No. 1** for awarding doctoral degrees in engineering to African-American students
- **No. 1** for awarding doctoral degrees in engineering to Hispanic/Latino students

According to a 2017 report from the American Society of Engineering Education, Georgia Tech is also ranked:

- **No. 1** for awarding bachelor’s degrees in engineering to women students
- **No. 1** for employing tenured and tenure-track women faculty in engineering