

Advancing University–Philanthropy Partnerships for Sustainable Research

September 10, 2025

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

9:30-9:35am Opening Remarks, NAS 125

- **Michael W. Nestor**, GUIPRR Board Director

9:35-10:50am Making It Work—Aligning Mission, Expectation, and Research Goals

This session will explore how universities are successfully engaging with philanthropic partners to advance shared research goals. Rather than focusing primarily on barriers, the discussion will highlight positive examples and practical approaches for fostering alignment around mission, strategy, and communication. Panelists will discuss how research institutions structure partnerships, communicate their goals and constraints, and integrate philanthropic funding into long-term planning and research priorities. While issues like indirect costs and administrative complexity will be acknowledged, the session will emphasize solutions and strategies that make partnerships productive and sustainable.

Moderator: Kristine Haskett, Executive Director, Foundation Relations, Georgia Institute of Technology

- **Sylvia A Bierhuis**, Executive Director, Foundation Relations and Corporate Philanthropy, University of California, Berkeley
- **Whitney Gaskins**, Associate Professor, College of Engineering and Applied Science, University of Cincinnati
- **Salil Desai**, Associate Dean of Research and Innovation, College of Engineering Professor, North Carolina A&T State University

10:50-11:00am Break

11:00-11:35am Case Study: Catalyzing Collaboration

This session features a conversation between leaders involved in a newly launched philanthropic initiative focused on neuroscience and society. In 2024, the Dana Foundation announced Loyola University Chicago, Mass General Brigham, and University of California, Los Angeles with Charles Drew University (UCLA-CDU) as awardees of the Dana Center initiative. Speakers will discuss how the collaboration came together, the vision that shaped it, and the philanthropic strategy behind the launch. The discussion will highlight early lessons, shared goals, and how partnerships like this can set the stage for long-term impact.

Moderator: Michael W. Nestor, GUIPRR Board Director

- **Khara Ramos**, Vice President, Dana Foundation
- **Helena Hansen**, Professor and Interim Chair of Professor and Interim Chair of Psychiatry and Interim Director of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior, UCLA

11:35-12:35pm Networking Lunch, West Court

12:35-1:50pm Philanthropic Perspectives: Flexibility, Impact, and Accountability

Philanthropic funders, including both independent foundations and corporate giving programs, bring diverse motivations, structures, and expectations to research partnerships. This session will give funders the opportunity to reflect on their goals, their approach to impact and accountability, and the value they place on institutional sustainability. Panelists will explore how foundations think about flexibility in funding, long-term engagement with institutions, and how they define success in ways that may or may not align with academic models.

Moderator: Elizabeth Weiss, Senior Director, Philanthropic Advising, Science Philanthropy Alliance

- **Cara Altimus**, Managing Director, Science Philanthropy Accelerator for Research and Collaboration, Milken Institute
- **Paige Cooper Byas**, Program Officer, Burroughs Wellcome Fund
- **Leo Gonzalez**, CFO & COO, Urban Land Institute
- **Thodore Hodapp**, Program Director, Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

1:50-3:00pm Industry as Philanthropic Partner — Corporate Giving, CSR, and Foundation Models

This session will explore the many ways the private sector engages in philanthropy to support the research ecosystem. In addition to corporate social responsibility (CSR) programs, many companies also operate philanthropic foundations that are distinct from their company or by working through a facilitating non-profit. The discussion will cover how research institutions can engage with industry-driven giving in ways that are both strategic and mutually beneficial.

Moderator: Laura Freeman, Deputy Director, Virginia Tech National Security Institute

- **J. Mark Nolan**, Associate Vice President of Corporate Engagement, Georgia Institute of Technology
- **Anshul Sonak**, Principal Engineer & Global Director– Intel Digital Readiness Programs, Intel
- **Maira Weir**, President & CEO, United Way Greater Cincinnati

END OF PROGRAM

Advancing University–Philanthropy Partnerships for Sustainable Research

September 10, 2025

Speaker Biographies

Making It Work—Aligning Mission, Expectation, and Research Goals



Kristine Haskett serves as the Executive Director of Foundation Relations at Georgia Tech, where she leads the team that acts as the primary liaison between the Institute and private foundations. Under her leadership, the Office of Foundation Relations initiates, cultivates, and secures philanthropic support to advance Georgia Tech's strategic priorities and initiatives.

With two decades of experience in corporate and foundation relations, Haskett has held key positions at Tulane University, Rutgers University, and the University of Texas at Austin. She earned a bachelor's degree in Spanish and French from Loyola University New Orleans and a master's degree in Philanthropic Studies from Indiana University.

Over the course of her career, Kristine has raised and managed more than \$100 million in grant funding. She has built and sustained relationships with leading national and global foundations, including the Gates Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Simons Foundation. Her expertise in proposal development, strategic funding strategy, and stakeholder engagement has consistently delivered impactful results for the institutions she has served.



Sylvia Bierhuis is the Executive Director of the Foundation Relations and Corporate Philanthropy program at UC Berkeley. She is an energetic team-player and strong supporter of public higher education, with over 17 years of progressive C&F fundraising experience. She has worked extensively with faculty, deans, senior leadership and others to build effective fundraising strategies that work to the benefit of the university, the larger community, and Berkeley's organizational partners.

Sylvia has significant experience working within the campus research ecosystem, with a current focus on complex interdisciplinary proposals and bridging the work of CFR and Principle/Major Gifts. Previously, Sylvia worked with science and engineering foundations and specialized in working with early career faculty. She has also done substantial work on major proposals in the Arts & Humanities.



Whitney Gaskins is the Associate Dean of Inclusive Excellence, Community Engagement and Faculty Development in the University of Cincinnati College of Engineering and Applied Science, the only African-American female currently teaching in the faculty of the College of Engineering. Whitney earned her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering, her Masters of Business Administration in Quantitative Analysis and her Doctorate of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering/Engineering Education. In her role as Associate Dean, Dr. Gaskins has revamped the summer bridge program to increase student support and retention as well as developed and strengthened partnerships with local area school districts to aid in the high school to college pathway. She serves as the Principal Investigator for both the Choose Ohio First Program (COF) and Ohio LSAMP grants. Through these grant programs the students receive competitive scholarship funding and professional development workshops which help prepare them to enter the STEMM workforce.

In 2009, she founded The Gaskins Foundation, a non-profit organization, who launched the STEMulates year-round K-12 program, which is a free of charge program that introduces more students to math and science, that currently offers programming in five cities. She was named the 2017 K12 Champion by the National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates (NAMEPA). In 2015, Dr. Gaskins was awarded the Janice A Lumpkin Educator of the Year Golden Torch Award. In 2019, she was recognized by the Greater Cincinnati Chamber as a Black History Maker. She was a recipient of the Dr. Terry Kershaw Faculty Excellence Award and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the University of Cincinnati for her innovative honors course Sticky Innovation (stickyinnovation.com). She was inducted in the 40 under 40 class of 2019, recognized as a 2021 YWCA Career Woman of Achievement and a 2022 Girl Scouts Woman of Distinction.



Salil Desai is the Associate Dean for Research and Innovation - College of Engineering and University Distinguished Professor at North Carolina A&T State University. He was the Director of the Center of Excellence in Product Design and Advanced Manufacturing. Dr. Desai is an internationally recognized leader for his exemplary contributions to advanced manufacturing through translatory research. Dr. Desai is recipient of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Technology Engineering and Mathematics Mentoring from the White House. His expertise is in the areas of smart cyber-physical systems, hybrid additive, nano and bio manufacturing, multiphysics modeling, regenerative tissue engineering, product design and realization. He is also a Fellow of the AIMBE, ASME and IISE professional societies and the Associate Editor of the IISE Transactions in Design and Manufacturing. His research has generated over \$30 million in funding and \$5 million in major research instrumentation awards. For his seminal contributions, he is recipient of several awards

including the NSF Career Award, SME's 20 Most Influential in Smart Manufacturing, UNC Board of Governors Award, Outstanding Investigator Awards from IISE, ASME, ASEE, SME, Department of Defense and the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

Case Study: Catalyzing Collaboration



Michael W. Nestor is Board Director of the Government–University–Industry–Philanthropy Research Roundtable (GUIPRR) at the National Academies. He helped launch Johnson & Johnson’s JLABS site in Washington, DC, supporting the growth of early-stage biotech companies, and previously directed neural stem cell research at the Hussman Institute for Autism, where his lab developed brain organoids and CRISPR-based drug discovery approaches that led to the founding of Synapstem and Autica Bio, where he is Chief Scientific Officer. He has served as a venture partner with the University of Maryland Momentum Fund, an Early Career Policy Ambassador with the Society for Neuroscience, and an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow at the U.S. Department of Energy. Author of *Anticipatory Ethics and The Use of CRISPR in Humans* (Springer/Nature), Dr. Nestor earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the University of Maryland School of Medicine, completed postdoctoral training at NIH, Rutgers, and the New York Stem Cell Foundation, and is an honorary member of the National Academy of Inventors, recognized for contributions to translational science and innovation.



Khara Ramos, a neuroscientist with extensive scientific management and communications expertise, is passionate about the intersection of science and society, particularly the ethical, legal, and societal implications of neuroscience research. She is the Vice President of Neuroscience & Society at the Dana Foundation, where she leads the Foundation’s programmatic strategy and grantmaking activities. Before joining the Dana Foundation, she worked at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for nearly 10 years. She was the inaugural Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Neuroethics Program and led the Neuroscience Content and Strategy Branch in the NINDS communications office. Dr. Ramos catalyzed the establishment and rapid growth of neuroethics efforts for the NIH BRAIN Initiative, positioning the NIH as a global leader in the emerging field of neuroethics. She also served as co-chair of the NIH Coordinating Committee for Bioethics Research and Training. Prior to NINDS, Dr. Ramos worked as a special assistant to the deputy Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at NIH. Dr. Ramos holds a Ph.D. in neurosciences from the University of California, San Diego, and a bachelor’s degree with honors in Symbolic Systems from Stanford University.



Helena Hansen, an MD, Ph.D. psychiatrist-anthropologist, is Professor and Interim Chair of Psychiatry and Interim Director of the Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior at UCLA. She is an internationally recognized leader in social medicine, and in biosocial research that illuminates the mechanisms by which social environment drives mental health outcomes. She is the author of over 100 articles in leading clinical and social science journals, and of three books: *Addicted to Christ: Remaking Men in Puerto Rican Pentecostal Drug Ministries*; *Structural Competency in Medicine and Mental Health: A Case-Based Approach to Treating the Social Determinants of Health* (with Jonathan Metzl); and *Whiteout: How Racial Capitalism Changed the Color of Opioids in America* (with Jules Netherland and David Herzberg), which won the 2023 New Millennium Book Award from the American Anthropological Association and the 2024 Rachel Carson Prize from the Society for the Social Study of Science. She has received numerous other awards, including an honorary doctorate from Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, and election to the National Academy of Medicine.

Philanthropic Perspectives: Flexibility, Impact, and Accountability



Elizabeth Stolow Weiss is a Senior Director of Philanthropic Advising at the Science Philanthropy Alliance, where she partners with foundations, philanthropists, and advisors to expand private support for discovery science. In this role, she empowers donors to make transformative investments by helping them craft strategies that reflect their priorities, connect with leading researchers and institutions, and explore innovative models for advancing bold scientific initiatives. She is regarded for developing creative philanthropic strategies that honor donor intent while strengthening the ecosystem needed to advance scientific discovery.

Elizabeth brings more than a decade of experience guiding major philanthropic investments in science and medicine. Before joining the Alliance, she served as Senior Director of Development at the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, where she played a key role in the multibillion-dollar Campaign for USC and helped increase philanthropic support for discovery science. She also advanced science and engineering initiatives through development roles at UCLA and the University of New Haven, building deep expertise in connecting donor aspirations with opportunities for lasting impact.

Elizabeth earned a Master's in Public Administration from the University of New Haven, a B.A. from the University of Connecticut, and a Certificate in High Impact Philanthropy from the University of Pennsylvania.



Cara Altimus, PhD is a managing director on the Science Philanthropy Accelerator for Research and Collaboration (SPARC) team at Milken Institute Strategic Philanthropy, leading the science and health innovation portfolio. A PhD neuroscientist, Altimus advises individual philanthropists and foundations on the state of research for various areas including neurodegenerative disease and mental health, identifying opportunities where their capital can make the biggest impact. With more than a decade of experience in neuroscience research, including neurological devices, psychiatric illness, learning, and memory, as well as sleep and circadian rhythms, Altimus has led Center projects ranging from the development of a philanthropic drug development program for neurodegenerative disease to a large patient-perspectives study for depression and bipolar research. Prior to joining the Institute, Altimus worked at the Food and Drug

Administration leading the Neural Interfaces Laboratory, which evaluates the safety and effectiveness of electrical stimulation methods in the brain. In addition to her research experience, she serves as the chair for the Trainee Advisory Committee for the Society for Neuroscience, is an advisor to the Ontario Brain Institute, and spent a year as an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow developing a neuroscience research portfolio at the Department of Justice. Altimus holds a bachelor's degree in genetics from the University of Georgia and a doctorate in biology from Johns Hopkins University. She works at the Institute's Washington office.



Paige Cooper Byas is a Program Officer at Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF). Her portfolio covers Biomedical and Reproductive Sciences, with a particular emphasis on supporting the development of physician scientists. Dr. Cooper Byas holds a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from Spelman College and a Ph.D. in Molecular Cell Biology. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship, she recognized her true passion to support scientists and has since embarked on exploring various roles and paths dedicated to helping foster and support the scientific community.



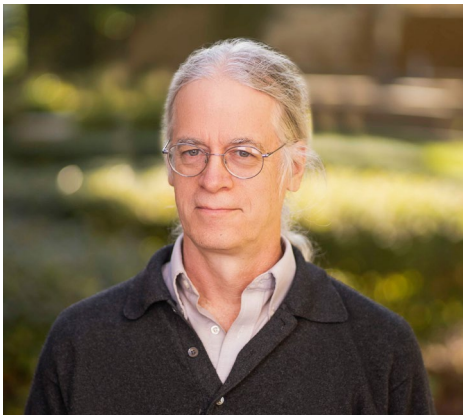
Leo Gonzalez is Chief Financial and Operating Officer of the Urban Land Institute, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit research and education organization supported by 48,000 members in 80 countries, whose mission is to shape the future of the built environment for transformative impact in communities worldwide.

Leo began his career in investment banking, specializing in leveraged finance and M&A transactions at J.P. Morgan and municipal bankruptcy and pension restructurings at Lehman Brothers. He previously managed over \$1 billion in endowment and charitable trust assets at Stanford University, and led capital markets and treasury activities for PNM Resources in New Mexico as it became

the first electric utility in the nation to set a goal of 100% carbon-free electricity generation.

In addition, he served as treasurer for all of Ford Motor Company's Japan and Southeast Asian entities, and as CFO for two successful startups: a global logistics management firm that achieved \$50 million in annual revenue within three years before being acquired; and an investment management firm serving family offices, endowments, and private foundations with \$600 million in assets under management.

Originally from the Philippines, he received his BS in International Economics from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and MBA from Stanford University's Graduate School of Business.



Theodore "Ted" Hodapp is Program Director for Science at the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and leads the foundation's Experimental Physics Investigators Initiative. For 17 years, Hodapp served as Director of Project Development and previously Director of Education and Diversity at the American Physical Society (APS) and led national-scale projects that created sustainable change in physics education and made significant gains in creating a diverse physics community. Prior to his work at APS, he served as a Program Officer at the National Science Foundation and was professor and chair of the Hamline University Physics Department. He has published works in quantum optics, laser cooling and atom-trapping, optical systems design, and physics education research. He is a Fellow of the American Physical Society and the AAAS.

Industry as Philanthropic Partner — Corporate Giving, CSR, and Foundation Models



Laura Freeman is a Research Professor of Statistics and serves as the Deputy Director of the Virginia Tech National Security Institute. Her research leverages experimental methods in the domains of cyber-physical systems, data science, artificial intelligence (AI), and machine learning to address critical challenges in national security. She develops new methods for test and evaluation focusing on emerging system technology. Her work in the National Security Institute focuses on transitioning emerging research into implementable solutions to solve challenges for the Defense, Intelligence and Homeland Security Communities. She is also a hub faculty member in the Commonwealth Cyber Initiative and leads research in AI Assurance. She is the Assistant Dean for Research for the College of Science, working to shape research directions and collaborations across the College of Science.

Previously, Dr. Freeman was the Assistant Director of the Operational Evaluation Division at the Institute for Defense Analyses. In that position, she established and developed an interdisciplinary analytical team of statisticians, psychologists, and engineers to advance scientific approaches to DoD test and evaluation. During 2018, Dr. Freeman served as the acting Senior Technical Advisor for Director Operational Test and Evaluation (DOT&E). As the Senior Technical Advisor, Dr. Freeman provided leadership, advice, and counsel to all personnel on technical aspects of testing military systems. She reviewed test strategies, plans, and reports from all systems on DOT&E oversight. Dr. Freeman served as Editor-in-Chief of the International Test and Evaluation (ITEA) Journal from 2020-2024 and transitioned the Journal to an online offering with options for peer-reviewed articles.

Dr. Freeman has a B.S. in Aerospace Engineering, a M.S. in Statistics and a Ph.D. in Statistics, all from Virginia Tech. She is a Fellow of the American Statistical Association. Her areas of statistical expertise include designed experiments, reliability analysis, and industrial statistics. Her Ph.D. research was on design and analysis of experiments for reliability data.



J. Mark Nolan is the inaugural Associate Vice President of Corporate Engagement at the Georgia Institute of Technology, a role he began in January 2022. At Georgia Tech, he established the Office of Corporate Engagement by merging the university's corporate relations and industry research offices. Reporting jointly to the Executive Vice President for Research and the Vice President for Development, he leads strategic efforts to expand industry partnerships across research, education, and innovation.

Before joining Georgia Tech, Mark served as Associate Vice President for Business Engagement and Strategy at Carnegie Mellon University (2016–2021), where he launched the Center for Business Engagement and, for a period of time, also oversaw Foundation Relations. He began his corporate engagement career at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he spent 15 years advancing partnerships—first at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and later as Director of Corporate Relations (which reported to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, then to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement, then to the Office of the Chancellor. Today, it reports to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research).

Mark is widely recognized for the development and promotion of the “channels” framework, which has strengthened corporate collaboration in areas such as student and faculty engagement, research, professional/executive education, fee-based utilization of labs/equipment, licensing, startups, co-location, and

other forms of engagement and corporate investment in campuses. He is a frequent speaker and panelist at national conferences including University-Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP), Network of Academic Corporate Relations Officers (NACRO), Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), and Salesforce events.

A trusted advisor to university leaders, Mark regularly provides guidance on corporate engagement strategies, organizational change and structures, revenue growth, and performance metrics. He also mentors professionals seeking to grow their careers in this dynamic field. His nine-channel model, further developed and matured at Georgia Tech, offers a scalable approach to institutional corporate engagement.

Earlier in his career, Mark held roles at the Johns Hopkins University, Lexis-Nexis, and worked as a licensed private investigator specializing in investigations for corporate and government clients. He holds a BA in Speech Communications from West Virginia Wesleyan College and an MS in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Anshul Sonak is the Principal Engineer, Global Director, and Head of Digital Readiness Programs at Intel Corporation, based at Santa Clara HQ, California, USA. He oversees the Intel® Digital Readiness Program for AI tech skilling, workforce development, the future of work, and policy initiatives aimed at bringing AI skills everywhere. Since 2017, he has been championing AI education and workforce development models for citizens, students, current and future workforce, and leaders through public-private partnerships with government and academia. He leads Intel's digital inclusion work to make technology more inclusive and expand digital readiness.

He is a recognized global business and thought leader in the education technology and workforce-skills industry ecosystem. He represents Intel in [WEF Education Alliance 4.0](#), [JFF Corporate Innovation Council](#), [GSV Workforce Insights Board](#), and [the World Bank's Solution for Youth Employment](#). In May 2023, he was recognized as "The top 10 most inspiring education leaders 2023" by The Education Insights [Magazine](#), featuring on the cover page. His work is covered in a [Harvard Business](#) case study for transforming AI education through Intel AI for Youth. He has written on platforms like [Forbes](#) and [UNDP](#), and he speaks regularly to media (e.g., [Houston Business Journal](#)) and in multilateral forums like [World Bank](#), the Commonwealth. He is a technology policy advisor for multiple governments, civil society, and academic bodies. His recent policy-shaping work includes JFF's [AI-Ready Workforce](#) report and [The AI-Enabled ICT Workforce Consortium](#) report.

He worked with UNESCO to publish [K12 AI curricula](#) mapping for countries wanting to introduce AI in schools. He is UNDP Asia's first private-sector regional [Youth Co-Lab champion](#), promoting youth tech-entrepreneurship and a global judge for [MIT SOLVE](#), a world-leading social entrepreneurship challenge to solve pressing problems using technology. He has authored a chapter on "Mastering the power of creative thinking" in a new book by Oxford Professors titled ["Mastering the Power of You"](#).

In his 30-year-long career, he has played leadership roles in the Education business, Corporate and Government Affairs, Technology Policy, Sustainability, Corporate Citizenship, CSR, and ESG. He has led both for-profit and nonprofit education initiatives. He is an alum of the Oxford Advanced Management & Leadership Program. He holds MIT Sloan School of Management certificates on "AI – Implications for Business Strategy" with MIT CSAIL (Computer Science & Artificial Intelligence Lab) and on "Shaping the Future of Work" with MIT IWER (Institute for Work and Employment Research). He holds a Post-Graduate Diploma in Rural Management from IRMA (Institute

of Rural Management) and a Bachelor's in Science from Hindu College, University of Delhi in India. He has earlier lived in India, the UAE, Malaysia, and Singapore.



Moira Weir Moira Weir became the first female President and CEO of United Way of Greater Cincinnati in 2020. She has guided the organization through transformative change designed to help all people achieve economic well-being within its nine-county service area in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana.

Her vision for United Way centers on its role as a community catalyst uniquely positioned to drive change through investments, influence and filling gaps in service. She has led efforts to amplify community voices and innovate solutions that empower families to build better futures.

Before joining United Way, Weir was the Director of Hamilton County Job & Family Services.

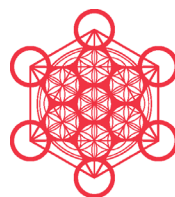
In 2020, national philanthropist MacKenzie Scott chose to invest in Weir's leadership, presenting United Way of Greater Cincinnati with a \$25 million grant. Weir's recognitions include: 2022 Lighthouse Youth and Family Services 2022 Beacon of

Light Award; named to the *Cincinnati Business Courier's* 2021 Women Who Mean Business list; the 2020 Vistage Member Excellence Award for Leadership; named one of Cincinnati's Most Influential Women by *Venue Magazine* in 2019; a 2016 YWCA Career Woman of Achievement.

**Philanthropy Partners of the
Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy
Research Roundtable**

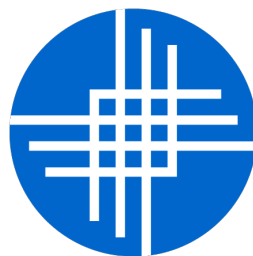
September 10, 2025

BURROUGHS
WELLCOME
FUND 



THE
KAVLI
FOUNDATION

Chan
Zuckerberg
Initiative 



MILKEN
INSTITUTE



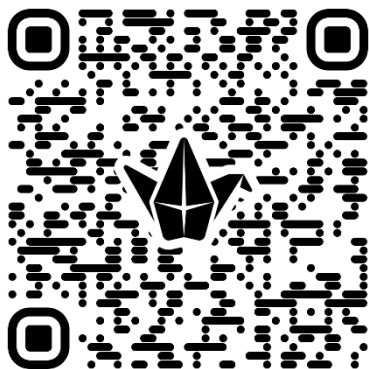
GORDON AND BETTY
MOORE
FOUNDATION

QR Codes for Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy Research Roundtable

September 10, 2025

Add your GUIPRR meeting virtual business card

Click on the + sign to add a new card. Add your photo
using the upload arrow or by linking a picture



Check out our interactive PiB from our October 2024 meeting!

<https://nap.nationalacademies.org/resource/29121/interactive/>



Connect with us on LinkedIn!

<http://linkedin.com/company/guiprp>

