

THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE

Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education
Board on Science Education (BOSE)

Engaging Policymakers in Cultivating Interest and Competencies in Computing Bios

Moderator: Cheri Fancsali, Deputy Director at the Research Alliance for New York City Schools

Panelists:

- Christy Crawford, Director of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education, NYC Department of Education
- Leigh Ann DeLyser, Co-Founder and Executive Director, CSforALL
- Lien Diaz, Director, Educational Innovation and Leadership, Constellations Center for Equity in Computing at Georgia Tech
- Sonia Koshy, Senior Director of Evaluation and Research, Kapor Center

CHERI FANCSALI is deputy director at the Research Alliance for New York City Schools, where she supervises the Research Alliance's ongoing studies, ensuring the application of rigorous and appropriate study designs for each project, and helps develop effective collaborations with local stakeholders, as well as education researchers across the country. She has over two decades of experience in research and evaluations of school- and community-based educational programs that target underserved youth, with a strong focus on teacher effectiveness and professional development, school reform initiatives, STEM, afterschool programs, and socio-emotional learning. Previously, Fancsali was an early childhood and special education teacher in New York City and has taught graduate level courses in evaluation at Teachers College, Columbia University. Fancsali holds a B.S. in special education from the University of Wisconsin, an M.S. in education policy from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in sociology and education from Columbia University.

CHRISTY CRAWFORD serves as the director of culturally responsive-sustaining education for New York City's Computer Science for All Initiative. For more than a decade, she taught K-8 classes in Harlem and the Bronx. She was also a curriculum fellow for the New York City Computer Science for All Blueprint and an adjunct lecturer for the City College of New York. She was an education consultant for companies such as Scholastic, BrainPop, and Nickelodeon. Prior to teaching, Crawford was a television producer for several network. She uses her experience in education and media to foster equity by all means necessary.

LEIGH ANN DELYSER has spent her career building the K-12 computer science (CS) field. As a managing partner of CSforALL, she oversees programs and strategic planning and supervises research to build support for high quality CS education at all levels. A former high school and university CS educator, Leigh Ann understands challenges faced by teachers,

administrators, and students developing their competency in the field and accessing high-quality learning opportunities and resources. Her influential “Running on Empty” report guides policies and research that support high-quality program implementation. Previously, Leigh Ann was Director of Research and Education at CSNYC, which built a foundation for CS in New York City public schools. She received a PhD in Computer Science and Cognitive Psychology, with a focus on CS education, from Carnegie Mellon University.

LIEN DIAZ is a founding director of the Constellations Center for Equity in Computing at Georgia Tech. Bringing an essential core foundation of equity in access and opportunity to computer science education, her role as Director of Educational Innovation and Leadership helps establish the Constellations Center as a leader in expanding computer science education through an equitable and comprehensive approach in national/international, state, and local education systems. Lien obtained a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the University of Texas at El Paso and an M. Ed. in Mathematics from Texas State University. She lives in the Atlanta metropolitan area with her husband, Leroy, and is a mother of four children, Justice Adonis, Adelina Liberty, Alana Freedom, and Aleah America.

SONIA KOSHY is the Senior Director of Research and Evaluation, who oversees the evaluation of programs and initiatives that aim to drive equity in computer science education and the tech workplace. She also helps to disseminate key research related to transforming tech ecosystems into more inclusive spaces. Prior to the Kapor Center, Sonia came from Algorhythm, a startup that creates automated, real-time reporting for the social sector. In her role as the Applied Social Science Director, she laid the research foundation for the Youth Development Impact Learning System and provided research and evaluation services to key clients such as Youth INC, The Robert Bowne Foundation, Literacy Inc., and the IKEA Foundation. Prior to working at Algorhythm, she was the Evaluation Manager at the Thrive Foundation for Youth where she worked on process and outcome evaluations to assess impact on numerous adolescent outcomes. She has collaborated closely with organizations such as Girl Scouts of Northern California, Camp Fire, Y Silicon Valley, and Girls Inc. of Alameda County. Sonia is a developmental psychologist, researcher, and evaluator, with a Ph.D. in Child Development from Tufts University.