

The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Education and Workforce Trajectories in Tech: A Workshop

Committee

Talitha Washington

Chair

Talitha Washington, Ph.D., serves in the Office of the Provost as Executive Director of the Center for Applied Data Science & Analytics (CADSA) at Howard University, where she also holds the Sean McCleese Endowed Chair and is a Professor of Mathematics. She additionally co-chairs the President's AI Advisory Council, guiding university-wide strategy for artificial intelligence across research, academics, and operations.

Dr. Washington's professional expertise spans applied mathematics, data science, artificial intelligence, and STEM education, with research interests that include dynamical systems, nonstandard finite difference schemes, and the ethical and societal dimensions of AI. Her work bridges scholarship, policy, and institutional leadership, with experience advancing large-scale, multidisciplinary initiatives at the university and national levels.

She has received numerous honors, including the NSF Director's Award for Superior Accomplishment, the BEYA STEM Innovator Award, and Howard University's Outstanding Faculty Award. Dr. Washington is a Fellow of the American Mathematical Society, Association for Women in Mathematics, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Spelman College and her master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from the University of Connecticut, which later awarded her an honorary Doctor of Science degree.

Robert Amponsah

Member

Dr. Robert Amponsah is a transformative leader working at the nexus of computing, engineering, education, and innovation. In his role as Assistant Dean for Special Projects at Vanderbilt University's College of Connected Computing, he leads strategic initiatives to shape the college's foundational structure, foster interdisciplinary partnerships, develop student engagement opportunities, and brand position it as a national leader in AI and data-driven education.

Dr. Amponsah's career bridges academia and industry with experience at Southern Methodist University, AT&T, and Toyota. At Southern Methodist University's Lyle School of Engineering, he served as Director of Strategic Initiatives and Assistant Director of Engineering Leadership Development, where he led key efforts in strategic planning, curriculum innovation, and student leadership identity development, particularly through programs like the NAE Grand Challenges Scholars initiative. Dr. Amponsah has also held leadership roles at AT&T, where he directed initiatives in IoT, customer experience, and product development.

A longtime leader in the National Society of Black Engineers, Dr. Amponsah currently serves as the National Professionals Collegiate Initiative Chair. In 2025, he was honored by Dallas Fort Worth Chapter as a DFW Hidden Figure Stem Leader. Dr. Amponsah serves on the Executive Board of the Engineering Leadership Division of American Society of Engineering Education and was recognized as a Co-author of the Division's Best Paper in 2025.

A two-time graduate of Vanderbilt University, Dr. Amponsah holds an Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning in Organizations and a Bachelor of Engineering in Electrical Engineering. He also earned an M.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Rochester and an MBA in Marketing from Texas A&M University. His doctoral capstone partnered with the City of Little Rock Arkansas to develop improvement strategies to address the Digital Divide.

Steven Azeka

Member

Dr. Steven Azeka is a Program Lead of the Responsible Computing Challenge at the Mozilla Foundation, where he leads international education programs supporting responsible computing curricula across 100 universities in the U.S., Kenya, South Africa, and India. His research examines how educational systems adopt and institutionalize emerging technical fields, with particular focus on responsible computing, computational thinking, and the role of leadership and policy in shaping equitable implementation at scale. Dr. Azeka holds an Ed.D. and M.A. in Instructional Technology and Media from Teachers College, Columbia University, and a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from California Polytechnic State University.

Ann Bruno

Member

Ann Bruno currently serves as the Assistant Dean for Academic Success and Inclusive Excellence for the College of Nanotechnology, Science, and Engineering (CNSE) at the University at Albany. She has over 30 years of higher education experience in student affairs at both the graduate and undergraduate levels, as well as experience in academic affairs through her prior service as a Registrar and Director of General Studies and Summer Sessions. Her journey has taken her from community colleges to R1 institutions, and much of her career has been spent working with engineering programs and students. In her current role she oversees the CNSE Learning Center and is involved with strategic planning and program assessment for the college. She has served on the boards of regional and national organizations, presented several workshops on ethics in higher education, and organized numerous state, regional and national conferences. She holds a bachelor's and master's degree in Communications from SUNY Plattsburgh and Marist University, respectively, and has completed several leadership training programs including the State University of New York (SUNY) SAIL Winter Leadership Retreat on Leading Culturally Intelligent and Inclusive Campuses.

Christophe Gole

Member

Christophe Golé is a professor of Mathematical Sciences at Smith College. He recently served as the director of the Clark Science Center at Smith College. His research is on applied dynamical systems and his works with biologists and physicists concentrates on modeling plant growth. His latest book, for a wide audience, is called "Do Plants Know Math?". He was the co-creator of an NSF funded 4-College Consortium in Biomathematical Sciences. More recently he was the PI in a NASA funded mentorship program "MATH Resilient Students (MARS)". After a BA at the university of Paris, he obtained a PhD in mathematics from Boston University in 1989.

Rita Lane

Member

Rita currently serves as an Independent Director on three public company Boards: Signify, L3Harris, and Amphenol.

Rita retired from her full time position as Vice President of Operations for iPad, Mac desktop, and Mac accessories at Apple Inc. in January 2014. Prior to joining Apple, Rita was the Senior Vice President of integrated supply chain operations at Motorola. Prior to that, she was vice president and brand advocate for the X Series and Storage, Integrated Supply Chain, IBM.

Rita served as an officer in the United States Air Force. She holds a MSEE from Purdue University, MBA from the University of California, Berkeley, and a BSEE from the U.S. Air Force Academy.

Fernando C. Pereira

Member

Fernando Pereira is a Google Fellow at Google DeepMind, where he focuses on putting generative AI into practice. Before that, he led language AI and ML teams at Google Research from 2008 until 2022. Before joining Google, he was chair of the Computer and Information Science department of the University of Pennsylvania, head of the Machine Learning and Information Retrieval department at AT&T Labs and held research and management positions at SRI International. He received a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Edinburgh in 1982, and has over 120 research publications on computational linguistics, machine learning, bioinformatics, speech recognition, and logic programming, and several patents. He is a fellow of AAAI, ACM, ACL, and AAAS; member of the American Philosophical Society, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the National Academy of Engineering; and past president of the Association for Computational Linguistics.

Christopher Swan

Member

Chris Swan holds a primary position as professor in the Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) department in the School of Engineering (SoE) at Tufts University. Additionally, he has a faculty appointment as a professor in the Tisch College of Civic Life and serves as a fellow in the Center for Engineering Education and Outreach. He also serves as an Associate Dean for Inclusive Excellence (ADIE), representing SoE on Tufts University Cabinet on Institutional Inclusive Excellence. His current engineering education research efforts focus on a) evaluating the impact of service-based learning in engineering education and b) evaluating faculty perspectives on the inclusion of macroethics in engineering education. He is currently a member of the American Society for Engineering Education and the American Society for Civil Engineering. Previously, he has served as the Dean of Undergraduate Education for the school (2018-2024), Associate Dean of Tisch College (2016), Associate Dean of Undergraduate Curriculum Development in the school (2012-2015) and as the CEE department chair (2002-2007). He received a Doctor of Science (ScD) degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering from MIT in 1994 and both Bachelor (BS) and Master (MS) of Science degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 1984 and 1986, respectively.

Jeena Thomas

Staff Officer