13th Annual
DIVERSITY Symposium

Wednesday, September 15, 2021
Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
#GT Diversity Symposium
7:30 a.m.  
Registration and Breakfast

8 a.m.  
Opening Remarks  
Ángel Cabrera  
President, Georgia Tech  
Archie Ervin  
Vice President, Institute Diversity  
Georgia Tech

Introduction of Guest Speaker  
André Brock  
Associate Professor, Ivan Allen College

9 a.m.  
Guest Speaker  
Ibram X. Kendi  
National Book Award-winning historian and author of  
How to Be an Antiracist

10 a.m.  
Break

10:05 a.m.  
Global and Local Connections

This panel will explore how collective actions and community responses to local acts of racism inspire global movements. The panelists will consider examples of antiracist activism in Atlanta and Brazil, and will describe how local efforts contribute to social justice, including Black Lives Matter and Stop AAPI Hate. The panel will also address the varied racial experiences of recent immigrants and African communities in metro Atlanta, including diaspora activists in Clarkston, Georgia.

Facilitator:  
Kirk Bowman  
Professor, Rise Up & Care Term  
Chair in Global Development and Identity Sam Nunn School of  
International Affairs

Panelists:  
Jancy Ling Liu  
Doctoral Student, School of Economics  
Dorian Brown Crosby  
(Former) Inaugural Director of  
Cultural Orientation and Assistant  
Professor of Political Science, Spelman College  
Joyce Wilson  
Assistant Professor of Black Media Studies, School of Literature, Media, and Communication  
Kevin Shanker Sinha  
Organizer and Activist for Equity and Justice; Founder, Civic Georgia

11 a.m.  
Break

11:05 a.m.  
Views From Elsewhere: Race in the United States

Race shapes travel. And travel reshapes our understanding of the way race operates, both at home and abroad. Five Georgia Tech graduates and current students – African American students from the Southeast; African-born students from Cameroon and Uganda; and international students from Jamaica, China, and Sri Lanka – consider race in the United States from the diverse vantages that their particular histories and experiences provide.

Facilitator:  
Sabir Khan  
Associate Professor, School of Architecture and School of Industrial Design  
Director, International Education, School of Architecture

Panelists:  
Bangseh Akuchu  
Alumnus  
Graduate Student, Scheller College of Business  
Jhordan Channer  
Alumnus  
Co-founder/Head of research for  
Island City Labs and Adjunct Professor at the Caribbean School of Architecture  
Kyla Dowlen  
Alumnus  
Teaching Assistant in Valencia, Spain  
Joel Jassu  
Alumnus  
Urban Design Project Manager, Perkins + Will  
Mandani Tennakoon  
Undergraduate Student, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

12:15 p.m.  
Lunch

1 p.m.  
Awards Reception

1:30 p.m.  
Where Do We Go From Here?

Facilitator:  
Stephanie Ray  
Associate Dean of Students; Director,  
Student Diversity Programs

2 p.m.  
Closing Remarks  
Archie Ervin
Ibram X. Kendi is a bestselling and prizewinning author, the Andrew W. Mellon Professor in the Humanities at Boston University, and the founding director of the BU Center for Antiracist Research. His relentless and passionate research puts into question the notion of a post-racial society and opens readers' and audiences' eyes to the reality of racism in America today.

Kendi is the author of Stamped From the Beginning: The Definitive History of Racist Ideas in America, which won the National Book Award for nonfiction, and The Black Campus Movement, which won the W.E.B. Du Bois Book Prize. He is also the author of the New York Times bestsellers How to Be an Antiracist and Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, and You, a young adult remix of Stamped From the Beginning. He most recently authored the indie bestseller Antiracist Baby.

Kendi is a contributing writer at The Atlantic and a CBS News correspondent. He has published essays in The New York Times, the Washington Post, Time, Huff Post, and The Root. Kendi has received research fellowships, grants, and visiting appointments from universities, foundations, professional associations, and libraries, including the American Historical Association, Library of Congress, National Academy of Education, Lyndon B. Johnson Library and Museum, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis, Brown University, Princeton University, Duke University, University of Chicago, and UCLA.
Diversity Champion Awards

About the Diversity Champion Awards
The 2021 Diversity Champion Awards recognize members of the faculty, staff, and student body, and a unit (office, department, school, or lab) who are advancing the principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion within the Georgia Tech community.

2021 Faculty Award Winner
Lewis Wheaton
Associate Professor, School of Biological Sciences

From Summer 2020 through Spring 2021, Lewis Wheaton co-chaired the College of Sciences’ Task Force on Racial Equity. Wheaton was also the lead PI for the $16 million NIH-FIRST proposal, with the aim of hiring 10 new underrepresented minority faculty in the College of Sciences’ and College of Engineering’s joint neuroscience program. Wheaton is also Co-PI on an NSF-funded Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates program in human neuroscience, which focuses on increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities from limited-resource undergraduate institutions.

2021 Staff Award Winner
Shaunitra Wisdom
Academic Advisor II, School of Architecture

As staff representative for the College of Design’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Shaunitra Wisdom co-developed and hosted a College-wide staff discussion on race, privilege, and discrimination, with an open forum to develop strategies for addressing racial and other biases in the College. As part of the School of Architecture’s Equity, Justice, and Inclusion Task Force, she created and coordinated the School’s Spring Black Alumni Panel, and worked with other council members to help the School identify opportunities to build, promote, and sustain an inclusive, equitable culture.
Diversity Champion Awards

2021 Student Award Winner
Shelbe Johnson
Undergraduate Student
School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

Since entering Georgia Tech in 2018, Shelbe Johnson has been actively engaged in promoting diversity at the Institute. She joined the National Society of Black Engineers in her first semester and immediately became the fundraising co-chair of Lambda Delta Rho, charged with raising money that would eventually fund a scholarship for incoming first-year Black students. Johnson is an active member of the African American Student Union and co-chaired its Black History Month programming in Spring 2021. In April 2021, she was a speaker at the unveiling ceremony for the site marker of the former Pickrick Restaurant in what is now the EcoCommons.

2021 Unit Award Winner
Office of Undergraduate Education
Equity Collective

Founded on a shared leadership model, the Office of Undergraduate’s Equity Collective welcomes colleagues, regardless of position in the division or in their units, to come together to create specific ways to address racism and injustice on the Georgia Tech campus and within its internal teams. Seventeen members — a mix of division leadership, faculty, staff, and students — collaborate in ambitious working groups to significantly advance the collective’s core priorities. Some of its initiatives have included an equity audit (Spring 2021) and equity-based facilitation training.
Special Thanks to the Planning Committee

Chair:
Archie Ervin, Vice President, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Co-Chair:
Carol Colatrella, Professor, School of Literature, Media, and Communication; Co-Director, Center for the Study of Women, Science, and Technology

Members:
Adjo Amekudzi-Kennedy, Professor and Associate Chair, School of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Tamara Ballou, Marketing and Event Coordinator II, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Melanie DeMaeyer, Assistant Dean of Students; Director, Women’s Resource Center
Amy Bass Henry, Executive Director, Office of International Education
Courtney Hill, Communications Manager, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Tia Jewell, Program and Portfolio Manager, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Shiraz Karaa, Counselor, Georgia Tech Counseling Center
Sabir Khan, Associate Professor, School of Architecture and School of Industrial Design; Director, International Education, School of Architecture
Keona Lewis, Associate Director of Institute Diversity Research, Institute Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Tegra Myanna, Director, LGBTQIA Resource Center
Sebnem Özkan, Associate Director, Atlanta Global Studies Center
Shamecia Powers, Assistant Director, Administrative Operations, Office of International Education
Stephanie Ray, Associate Dean of Students; Director, Student Diversity Programs
Julian Rimoli, Associate Professor, School of Aerospace Engineering
Catherine Ross, Regents Professor; Harry West Chair, School of City and Regional Planning
Anna Stenport, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Rochester Institute of Technology
John Stein, Associate Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-Being, and Brandt-Fritz Dean of Students Chair
Carol Sullivan, Senior Academic Professional, Center for Teaching and Learning
Ashlee Toomey-Flinn, Education Abroad Scholarships Advisor and Marketing Specialist, Office of International Education