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 11th Annual Diversity Symposium is “Georgia Tech’s Racial Diversity Journey: Recognizing Our Past, Acknowledging Our Present, and Charting Our Future,” which will explore the racial history and progress of the Georgia Tech community.

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, leadership, and service has earned them distinctions from their peers within their respective fields.

When you dive 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.
Dear Honorees:

Since its founding, Georgia Tech has evolved into an increasingly diverse academic community. It opened its doors to women in the 1950s and African Americans in the sixties. Today it serves students from diverse backgrounds from all 50 states and 140 countries around the world. This commitment to diversity and inclusion is not only the right thing to do, it is essential to achieve the standards of excellence we aspire to.

Diversity of people and perspectives is indeed essential to our learning and research missions. We learn when we confront ideas and information that challenge or add to our beliefs, and we produce new ideas when we engage in dialogue with people with complementary backgrounds and points of view. But for diversity to be of any value, it must occur within an environment where no one feels excluded or afraid to express themselves.

We must keep working to not only increase student, faculty, and staff diversity, but also to build an inclusive community where everyone feels free to learn and grow. Through publications such as *Faces of Inclusive Excellence* we shine a spotlight on the many Georgia Tech students, staff, and faculty who are leading the way in doing just that. You inspire us, and Georgia Tech is honored to partner with you on our shared inclusive journey.
Meltem Alemdar
Associate Director for Educational Research and Evaluation
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC)

Led and coauthored numerous K-12-focused academic papers; keynote speaker at the National Science Foundation’s Noyce Summit in July 2019.

Azadeh Ansari
Assistant Professor
School of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Promotes diversity and inclusion of women in academia; has won departmental awards and published work in prestigious journals.

Juliana Alfonso
Undergraduate Student
College of Sciences

Worked with the Effective Team Dynamics Initiative as a Gallup-certified strengths coach to encourage student development, using the language of CliftonStrengths.

Lucero Aradillas
Academic Program Manager
School of Modern Languages

Manages the School’s scholarship efforts, including Project GO, which fully funds language study abroad programs for ROTC students; helped secure an internship opportunity for new M.S. students in an educational community organization that serves underrepresented minority students.
**Shaun Ashley**  
Faculty Support Coordinator  
School of Physics

Manages day-to-day operations as program coordinator for the Physics Summer REU program; attends annual National Society of Black Physicists conference to recruit highly talented, underrepresented minority physics students to Georgia Tech.

**Emma Blandford**  
Assistant Director  
College of Sciences

Volunteered as a well-being activator for Health Initiatives; worked with first-year students in the College of Sciences’ EXPLORE living-learning community. (EXPLORE was one of only three student organizations to be named a Gold-Certified Healthy group.)

**Simonne Beal**  
Financial Analyst II  
Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)

Received GTRI’s Unsung Hero Award for substantive contributions to a GTRI support unit or Director’s Office.

**Stéphanie Boulard**  
Associate Professor of French Literature and Cinema  
School of Modern Languages

Led the recruitment of the first cohort of graduate students for the new interdisciplinary master of science in Global Media and Cultures with specialization in French; obtained with her collaborators the Georgia Tech Strategic Planning Group grant; and published widely on cross-culturalism in French literary and cultural studies.
FRANCISCO CASTELAN
Health Professions Advising Manager
Center for Career Discovery and Development

Diversity advocate within the medical profession on and off campus; brings more than 10 years of experience in health professions advising, including collaboration with the nonprofit Tour for Diversity in Medicine.

YONGSHENG CHEN
Professor
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Received a $5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for a pilot growing project using campus wastewater to grow vegetables — the largest USDA grant the school has ever received; installation of the system is expected to be completed by the end of 2019.

STEFANOS CHARALAMBOUS
Undergraduate Student
School of Mechanical Engineering

Nominated by the Design Bloc for the University Innovation Fellowship program at Stanford University’s Hasso Plattner Institute of Design.

DOREEN CLAYTON
Senior Research Administrative Operations Specialist
School of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Graduate of the Inclusive Leaders Academy, 2019.
**MAYUMI COLE**  
Administrative Professional  
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts/Army ROTC

Received the Ivan Allen College Distinguished Administrative Service Award in April 2019, a recognition that included her commitment to practice allyship to the LGBTQIA community as a liaison for the Army ROTC department; completed Trans 101 and Safe Space training.

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**SHATAKSHEE DHONGDE**  
Associate Professor  
School of Economics

Received Georgia Tech’s Ivan Allen Jr. Legacy Award for extensive research on poverty and multidimensional deprivation in the United States.

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**VALENTINA DE LA FÉ**  
Program Manager  
Center for Engineering Education and Diversity

Led the Peer 2 Peer Mentorship Program for underrepresented minority students in STEM and the on-campus recruitment activities for the College of Engineering.

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**AUDREY DUARTE**  
Associate Professor and Associate Chair of Undergraduate Education  
School of Psychology

Published empirical research, edited a special volume, and wrote a book chapter about the importance of assessing diversity in human neuroscience research; served on the College of Sciences Diversity Council.
Amy Duke
Research Administrative Manager
Institute for Electronics and Nanotechnology

Served as employee engagement co-chair for the Women of Georgia Tech employee resource group and helped establish and administer a monthly networking event that creates new working relationships across campus units for group members.

Quinn Foster
Student Organizations Coordinator
Center for Student Engagement


Latrese Ferguson
Manager
Workplace Learning and Professional Development

Recipient of the Leadership in Action Staff Award and nominee for GT1000 Instructor of the Year, 2019.

Carla Gilson
Director of Sports Medicine
Athletic Association/Sports Medicine

Served in the Sports Medicine department for more than 20 years; played a significant role in mentoring hundreds of student-athletes on and off the field; promoted to position of director in 2019.
Beki Grinter
Professor and Associate Dean
School of Interactive Computing

Completed both levels of Level Up: An Advanced Allyship Course, offered by the LGBTQIA Resource Center.

Diley Hernandez
Senior Research Scientist
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC)

Educational psychologist with expertise in motivation and cultural studies in education; serves as director of the GoSTEM program, an initiative aimed to enhance the pipeline of Latino students into post-secondary STEM education.

Karen Head
Executive Director, Associate Chair, and Associate Professor
Naugle Communication Center; School of Literature, Media, and Communication

Georgia Tech Class of 1934 Outstanding Service Award recipient.

Fredrick Holloman
Learning Specialist (Academic Coach)
Center for Academic Success

Led collaborative efforts with Enrollment Services and Achieve Atlanta to create multiple pathways to academic success, including academic support, social networking opportunities, and mentoring to Atlanta Public School graduates coming to Georgia Tech.
Tiffany Hughes-Troutman
Director
Center for Education, Referral, and Education (CARE)/Division of Student Life

Inaugural director of CARE; graduate of the Inclusive Leaders Academy and Leading Women@Tech programs; co-hosted Fresh Check Day, Georgia Tech’s first suicide prevention and mental health awareness event.

Saif Kabariti
Undergraduate Student
School of Mechanical Engineering

Organized a campus-wide speaker series/inspiration initiative about the unique journeys into science taken by accomplished professors from diverse backgrounds; served as the first international representative at the Undergraduate House of Representatives.

Kaye Husbands Fealing
Chair and Professor
School of Public Policy

Serves on the National Science Foundation’s Committee on Equal Opportunity in Science and Engineering; gave invited lecture at National Institutes of Health National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute on broadening participation in STEM; awarded three NSF grants on broadening participation in STEM.

Julie Ju-Youn Kim
Associate Chair and Associate Professor
School of Architecture

Co-chaired the Symposium on Design and Resilience at the AIA Conference on Architecture 2018; chaired the College of Design Diversity and Inclusion Council (2016-19); currently serves as faculty advisor for Equity in Architecture.
JHILLIKA KUMAR
Undergraduate Student
School of Interactive Computing

Won the Alvin M. Ferst Leadership and Entrepreneur Award, 2019; invited as a speaker on the Tech for Good panel at Atlanta’s largest technology conference, FutureX Live; recipient of the Student of Vision Abie Award by AnitaB.org, presented at the Grace Hopper Foundation.

MARY MCDONALD
Homer C. Rice Chair of Sports and Society and Professor
School of History and Sociology

Received the Service Excellence Award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport in recognition of her longtime service to the organization as well as her dedicated service and intellectual leadership in the field.

GRACE LESLIE
Assistant Professor
School of Music

Created a new course in the Serve-Learn-Sustain program that invites students to design new music interfaces for and with others who may benefit from these new designs; introduces students to the principles of neurofeedback and brain-computer interface systems using EEG (electroencephalography) and the basic signal processing methods required to make basic working prototypes.

TOM McNEIL
Principal Research Scientist
Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)/Advanced Concepts Lab

Recognized as GTRI research faculty who sustained outstanding achievement in mentoring junior faculty members in research activities; has demonstrated outstanding achievement in mentoring junior faculty members, increasing their intellectual integrity, and helping to increase diverse representation at GTRI.
Stephanie Giles Merrick
Administrative Professional
Center for Spatial Planning Analytics and Visualization

Received a Ph.D. in leadership and organizational change and was selected a 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Fellow; currently leading a project on sexual harassment awareness at Georgia Tech.

Robbie Ouzts
Career Development Advisor II
Graduate Education and Faculty Development

Graduate of the Inclusive Leaders Academy; 2018 Rich Steele Campus Service Award recipient; Susan E. Cozzens Administrator of the Year Award recipient.

Mohammadreza Nazemi
Doctoral Candidate
School of Mechanical Engineering

Awarded the top proposal winner of the Amazon Catalyst at ECS grant program and a fellow of the Ti:GER program in Scheller College (Class of 2020); served as vice president of the Electrochemical Society student chapter at Georgia Tech and will serve as president for 2019-20 academic year.

Laura Paige
Program Manager and Academic Advisor
Bioengineering Graduate Program; Parker H. Petit Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience

Led hurricane relief effort that provided more than 9,500 pounds of supplies and water to those in need in Puerto Rico.
HAESUN PARK
Regents Professor
School of Computational Science and Engineering

Appointed Regents Professor by the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, recognizing her outstanding contributions in large-scale data analytics, visual analytics, and numerical computing.

CAROLYN PHILLIPS
Interim Director of Services and Education Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation

Nationally recognized in the field of assistive technology and disabilities; worked with the U.S. National Park Service to increase accessibility for all visitors; worked with Georgia’s state hospitals to assist individuals who have been institutionalized to move into communities of their choice.

AMANDA PELLERIN
Access Archivist
Archives and Special Collections, Georgia Tech Library

Utilized archival collections in undergraduate instruction sessions and public programs to promote the diverse legacy of Georgia Tech; provided access to the historical records of the Pride Alliance student organization; collaborated in the Everyday Georgia project.

ALYSON POWELL KEY
Marketing Communications Manager
Institute for People and Technology

Created the Everyday Georgia storytelling project, which explores the stories of people whose lives have been touched by Georgia Tech’s research; communications leader for the Web of Brilliance employee resource group.
**SHAHEEN RANA**  
Research Associate II  
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC)

Evaluator for the GoSTEM program; serves as an expert on social network analysis and culturally responsive evaluation; chaired CEISMC’s Diversity and Inclusion Taskforce since its inception.

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**ANALIA RAO**  
Research Associate II  
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC)

Led multiple initiatives within the GoSTEM program to increase Latino students’ access to post-secondary STEM education.

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**DANA RANDALL**  
Co-Executive Director  
Institute for Data Engineering and Science

Successfully led a $6.5 million Department of Defense MURI (Multidisciplinary University Research Initiatives) multi-institutional project.

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**MARY LYNN REALFF**  
Associate Professor and Associate Chair for Undergraduate Programs  
School of Materials Science and Engineering

Developed and directs the Effective Team Dynamics initiative, which integrates strengths language and facilitation into the Georgia Tech community; facilitates a student/industry mentoring program that matches industry mentors with Georgia Tech undergraduate students.
**Will Roddy**  
Director, Facilities and Capacity Planning  
Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)/Support Services Department

Received GTRI’s Director’s Service Award, which recognizes stellar performance in support of GTRI and the Institute; instrumental in structuring the move of more than 500 employees into the Coda building and the Cobb County Research Center.

**Jacquelyn Strickland**  
Fellowships Coordinator  
Office of Graduate Studies

Developed ongoing programming for recruitment, outreach, and support of diverse graduate student groups, including McNair Scholars.

**Atiyya Shaw**  
Doctoral Candidate  
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Served as a peer coach with the Georgia Tech Counseling Center and was appointed to the College of Engineering Graduate Student Advisory Board to the dean.

**Vargheese Antony Thomas**  
Research Associate  
Georgia Electronic Design Center

Awarded second place in the students and young professionals poster competition at the IEEE Photonics Conference; authored or coauthored eight conference papers and three journal publications in the last academic year.
**Ashlee Toomey-Flinn**  
Education Abroad  
Marketing Specialist and Scholarships Advisor  
Office of International Education

Participated in Safe Space, Trans 101, and completed Level Up: An Advanced LGBTQIA Allyship Course, and serves as a Safe Space facilitator for the LGBTQIA Resource Center.

**Gervais Wafotabopda**  
Lecturer  
School of City and Regional Planning

Received the 2018-19 student award for Outstanding Professor, on behalf of Georgia Tech’s Student Planning Association, for support of student learning in the School of City and Regional Planning.

**Marion Usselman**  
Principal Research Scientist and Associate Director  
Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics, and Computing (CEISMC)

Principal investigator for the National Science Foundation program, Culturally Authentic Practice to Advance Computation Thinking in Youth (CAPACITY); coauthor, “Paving the Road into College and STEM for Latino Students,” Journal of STEM Outreach.

**Travis Waugh**  
Instructional Technologist  
Human Resources

Has led the content creation of the annual Ethics and Compliance Campaign for the last two years.
Kate Williams
Assistant Director for TA and Future Faculty Initiatives
Center for Teaching and Learning

Created workshops on inclusive teaching practices to prepare graduate students and postdocs for faculty positions; facilitated faculty teams to investigate inclusive teaching and lab management practices.

Xing Xie
Assistant Professor and Carlton S. Wilder Junior Professor
School of Civil and Environmental Engineering

Recipient of the National Science Foundation Early Career Development (CAREER) Award, 2019.

Kim Wingate
Research Security Specialist
Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI)/Research Security

Awarded GTRI’s Unsung Hero Award for substantive contributions to a GTRI support unit or Director’s Office.
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 2018 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 physical sciences to African American students
- **No. 1** for awarding doctoral degrees in engineering to African American students

Through more than 60 chartered student organizations exploring religious, racial, sexual, and ethnic identity (but open to all), Tech students are able to celebrate, strengthen, and share in the robust cultural melting pot that makes up the Georgia Tech community. The Institute is committed to building and sustaining a welcoming and inclusive campus.