



**Artificial Intelligence in Alabama Higher Education**  
**The University of Alabama in Huntsville**  
**Student Services Building (SSB)**  
**301 Sparkman Drive, Huntsville, AL 35899**  
**March 1, 2024**

**LIST OF CONFERENCE SPEAKERS**



*Asim Ali*  
*Auburn University*

Dr. Asim Ali is the Executive Director of the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at Auburn University, and he co-leads work on artificial intelligence for the Office of the Provost to build faculty capacity for understanding and implementing AI in teaching and learning. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Ali teaches introduction to information systems management in the Harbert College of Business in the Department of Business Analytics and Information Systems. In addition, he is active in several professional organizations, including serving as a board member of UPCEA, the leading national organization for online learning and administration. Ali holds a bachelor's degree in software engineering, a master's degree in information systems management, and a PhD in adult education from Auburn University.



*Venkata Atluri*  
*Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Venkata Atluri is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Alabama A&M University. He has 15+ plus years of teaching and research in cyber security, and 25+ years of teaching at both graduate and undergraduate level computer science, and research in machine learning. He also conducts and publishes research in the application of Machine Learning in Cyber security. Dr. Atluri has been collaborating in research, design, and development of AI tools, and workforce development for cyber security, image, and signal processing domains for aerospace and defense industries. Dr. Atluri earned his PhD in Zoology at Nagarjuna University in India, with subsequent graduate degrees in Computer Science and Food Science. He is currently leading sponsored research projects with the National Science Foundation, Department of Energy, and Department of Defense.



*Bryn Bakoyéma*  
*Alabama State University*

Bryn Bakoyéma is the Assistant Vice President for Planning and Strategic Analysis at Alabama State University, where she manages the institutional effectiveness functions of the University, including coordinating implementation of the University's strategic plan. She has over 20 years of experience in data management, research, and evaluation for higher education, non-profit, and governmental organizations. She completed undergraduate degrees in Agronomy and International Development at North Carolina State University, along with graduate degrees in Cultural Anthropology at Indiana University Bloomington.



*Jerome Baudry  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville*

Professor Jerome Baudry is the Mrs. Pei-Ling Chan Professor of Biological Sciences at the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Dr. Baudry obtained his PhD in Molecular Biophysics with Highest Honors from the University of Paris, UPMC/Sorbonne Universities, France. After post-doctoral work at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Dr. Baudry worked as a research scientist in the pharmaceutical industry. Dr. Baudry joined the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and the UT/ORNL Center for Molecular Biophysics as a tenure-track faculty member in 2008. In August 2017, Dr. Baudry joined the faculty at UAH, where his group develops and applies methods and protocols for computational drug discovery, both on small-molecules and biologicals, within academic, national laboratories and industrial collaborations.



*Aaron Benz  
Degree Analytics*

Aaron Benz, CEO and Founder of Degree Analytics, is a data scientist and mathematician with a deep commitment to using data-driven strategies to revolutionize education. With a background as a pure mathematician and a distinguished lacrosse goalie at Eastern University, Aaron has developed big data analytics applications for diverse sectors. At Degree Analytics, he has pioneered IoT data applications in higher education, holding a patent for location-based monitoring systems. His expertise has been showcased through peer-reviewed research at the Broad Institute and speaking engagements at leading conferences like Strata-Hadoop World and Educause. Aaron's vision is anchored in leveraging analytics to enable stakeholders across institutions in academic environments.



*Kartz E. Bibb  
Alabama State University*

Dr. Kartz Bibb is Professor of Biology in the Department of Biological Sciences in the College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics at Alabama State University. Her primary research interests include integrating innovative teaching strategies in Biological Sciences, and Service Learning and Community Service. Other research interests include molecular biology of *Trypanosoma cruzi* and other microbe host cell receptors and signal transduction events induced in infection of host cells, micro-vesicle and exosome biogenesis of microbes, and youth risk behaviors. Dr. Bibb earned her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from Meharry Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee.



*Kelsey Bickett  
QuantHub*

Dr. Kelsey Bickett is a program manager with QuantHub, a Birmingham-based software company using AI to teach data literacy. With funding from Innovate Alabama, Dr. Bickett is leading the development of Alabama Data Scholars. The new internship and skill building initiative will engage high school students with data science and AI, prepare them for higher education, and encourage retention within the state's workforce. She previously managed NASA's Internship Program and led student success initiatives for both the University of Alabama in Huntsville College of Science and Auburn University at Montgomery Honors Program. She holds a doctorate in education policy from Florida State University and degrees in adult education and anthropology from Auburn University.



*Miranda Bouldin  
LogiCore, Inc.*

Miranda Bouldin is a highly accomplished and visionary leader, serving as President and CEO of LogiCore, Inc., a defense contracting firm that she founded in 2002. As an Alabama native and Alabama A&M University alumna, Bouldin is an active and respected member of the community, holding three governor-appointed board positions, including as current Chair of the Alabama Commission on Higher Education. Additionally, Bouldin has over 15 years of experience as a real estate developer, manager, and investor in commercial and residential properties. Further, in 2012 she established Inspire and Achieve, a 501-c3 charitable organization that supports students aspiring to pursue higher education and philanthropic endeavors.



Lawrence Cappello  
University of Alabama

Lawrence Cappello is an Assistant Professor of U.S. Legal & Constitutional History at the University of Alabama and author of *None of Your Damn Business: Privacy in the United States from the Gilded Age to the Digital Age* (University of Chicago Press). He is a certified information privacy professional (CIPP/US & CIPM) and serves as co-director for UA's AI Teaching Enhancement Initiative and for UA's Coalition for Innovating Privacy, Ethics, Humanities, & Rights in Artificial Intelligence (CIPHER AI). His work on the right to privacy has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Atlantic*, *The Hill*, *The Economist*, *AL.com*, and other outlets. Dr. Cappello earned his BA, MPhil, and PhD in History from The City University of New York.



Abigail Carter  
Alabama Community College  
System

Dr. Abigail Carter has extensive postsecondary experience, working in higher education for the last three decades. She has held many educational positions, including instructor, professor, dean, and interim Vice President of Academic Affairs. Abigail, a veteran of the Army Reserve, earned a BS in Information Systems from Auburn University at Montgomery and a MBA from Brenau University. She earned an EdS in Educational Leadership and an EdD in Educational Leadership, both from Liberty University. Dr. Carter holds the Associate Director of Computer/Information Technology Instructional Programs position at the Alabama Community College System office, where she leads efforts to update and develop computer science curriculums across Alabama's 24 community and technical colleges.



Katherine L. Chiou  
University of Alabama

Katherine Chiou is an Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Alabama. Her research spans foodways past and present, social inequality, plant domestication, applied ethics, and responsible conduct of research. At UA, Dr. Chiou serves as co-director for UA's AI Teaching Enhancement Initiative and for the Coalition for Innovating Privacy, Ethics, Humanities, & Rights in Artificial Intelligence (CIPHER AI). Her current ethics project, funded by the NSF Ethical and Responsible Research Program, probes the effectiveness of case-study-based training in developing ethical decision-making competencies and works to diversify ethics education. She earned a BA in Anthropology at New York University, as well as her MA and PhD in Anthropology from UC Berkeley.



Jay Claiborne  
Auburn University at  
Montgomery

Dr. Jay Claiborne holds a PhD in Business-Information Systems Management from Auburn University, an MS in Management of Information Systems from Auburn University, an MBA from the University of West Georgia, and a BS in Finance from the University of Tennessee. He currently serves as an Assistant Professor at Auburn University at Montgomery, and his research focuses on machine learning, artificial intelligence, fraud detection, and public transit operations. Prior to transitioning to academia, he spent time in industry as a technical consultant, the Sr. Director of Management & Budget at MARTA, the Manager of Financial Reporting & Analytics at Troutman Sanders LLP, and an NCO in the United States Marine Corps.



Damian Clarke  
Alabama State University

Dr. Damian Clarke is currently VP of Technology at Alabama State University (ASU). Prior to joining ASU, he served in similar roles at Meharry Medical College, Alabama A&M University, South Carolina State University, and Tennessee State University. Damian has been the PI and co-PI for many NSF Cyberinfrastructure grants. He has chaired the Alabama Higher Education CIO Council, and is a founding member of the Minority Serving - Cyberinfrastructure Consortium. Damian earned his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Miami, and he holds an MS from George Washington University and a BS from South Carolina State University.





*Kent Darzi  
Vertiv*

Kent Darzi is the Senior Director of Core Engineering at Vertiv, a hardware, software, and services firm that supports data centers, communication networks, and IT infrastructure. A 20+-year industry veteran, Mr. Darzi brings together technical innovation and business acumen to deliver results across business, quality, and engineering disciplines. Mr. Darzi holds multiple patents, and his educational background includes an MBA from the University of Alabama and an undergraduate degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. In 2019 he was named University of Alabama Executive Alumnus of the Year.



*Jeremy Davis  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville*

Dr. Jeremy Davis is a principal research engineer at the Center for Cybersecurity Research and Education at the University of Alabama Huntsville, with over 14 years of experience in AI research and development. Dr. Davis's areas of interest are computer vision, natural language processing, and generative AI. At UAH CCRE, Dr. Davis works with a multi-disciplined team whose goal is to use applied AI to bolster cybersecurity applications. Dr. Davis has several peer-reviewed publications in the field of AI and received the Department of the Army Achievement for Civilian Service in 2015 for his work on AI solutions to improve inter-coastal waterway shipping lanes.



*Jeremy Dean  
Honor Education*

Jeremy Dean is Vice President of Learning at Honor Education. He has worked in ed-tech for the past ten years, leading teams that build and support products for deepening learner engagement and building classroom community. He was previously VP of Education at Hypothesis and Director of Education at Genius. Before working in tech, Jeremy was a scholar-educator for fifteen years, teaching at both the college and high school levels. He earned his PhD in English from the University of Texas at Austin, where he worked as a Project Manager in the Digital Writing and Research Lab.



*Lindsay Doukopoulos  
Auburn University*

Dr. Lindsay Doukopoulos is the Associate Director for Educational Development at the Biggio Center for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning at Auburn University. She serves as Vice Chair of the Southern Regional Faculty and Instructional Developer Consortium, Co-Chair of the POD Network's Digital Resources and Innovation Committee, and Co-Host of Centering Centers: the POD Network podcast. Dr. Doukopoulos has taught numerous courses, including creative writing workshops, small and large lecture literature courses, as well as first year composition. She earned her PhD in Creative Writing at the University of Southern Mississippi, and she completed her BA in English and Spanish at Tulane University.



*Daniel Downs  
Axient*

Daniel Downs is the AI/ML Applications Lead at Axient Corp, a defense, aerospace, and cyberspace company headquartered in Huntsville. After completing his B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science from Mississippi State University, he worked on both the hardware and software systems for various Autonomous Undersea Vehicles. He then moved into the AI/ML space and has led multiple projects involving natural language processing, behavioral cloning, classification, and dataset generation. In his free time, he is involved in the ML community around the popular video game Rocket League, where he helped pioneer the use of Reinforcement Learning to create an agent that could beat 99.9% of the global player base.



*Corey Edwards  
Mainstay*

Corey Edwards is Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at Mainstay, where he works with states, institutions of higher education, and college access organizations to design and deploy technologies that promote postsecondary access and success. In his 20+ years in higher education, Edwards served as the Northwest Regional Director at Western Governors University and worked in several roles within the University of Colorado System, including student advising, athletics, and online education. His departing role at CU was as the Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships for the University of Colorado Denver. He holds an MS in Sport Administration and BA in Communication from the University of Northern Colorado.



*Rhonda Gaede  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville*

Dr. Rhonda Gaede is an Associate Professor of Computer Engineering at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she also serves as Associate Provost of Undergraduate Education. She teaches extensively in the Computer Engineering program, and she has developed new courses in Computer Arithmetic, VHDL Modeling and Testing of Digital Circuits. Prior to coming to UAH in 1992, Dr. Gaede worked for Motorola Inc. in Austin, Texas as a product engineer for 8-bit microprocessors and for IBM in the Test Methodologies and Applications group. She earned her PhD and MSEE in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin, as well as her BSEE from Southern Methodist University.



*Emily Gill  
University of Montevallo*

Emily Gill, MFA, is an Associate Professor of Theatre, as well as the Director of the Malone Center for Excellence in Teaching at University of Montevallo. She has served at UM since 2007 after earning her MFA at University of Georgia following a freelance career as a performance designer in Atlanta, GA, and earning a BA in Theatre Arts and English at Rollins College in Winter Park, FL. In addition to her Theatre Design work, Emily is certified in Experience Design by Odyssey Works, an international arts collective that connects creatives from performing arts, installation design, new media, film, and corporate environments. She can also make lip gloss from scratch and knows several laundry-and-budget-friendly recipes for stage blood.



*Jackey Gong  
University of Alabama*

Dr. Jiaqi (Jackey) Gong is an Associate Professor of Computer Science at The University of Alabama, where he is the Director of the Sensor-Accelerated Intelligent Learning (SAIL) Laboratory and is involved in the establishment of the Alabama Center for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. His lab focuses on the convergence of human and artificial intelligence that spans the area of human-centered computing, cyber-physical systems, and smart and connected health. Dr. Gong also serves as Associate Editor for the following publications: *ACM GetMobile Magazine*, *Smart Health Journal*, and *Frontiers in Artificial Intelligence*. He earned his PhD in Control Science and Engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology.



*Chase Golden  
Alabama School of  
Technology and Engineering*

Chase Golden is a cybersecurity professional with expertise in developing strategy, influencing policy, and guiding technology investments. Chase has an extensive background in advising senior executives and managing the rapid transition of prototype research and development projects. Mr. Golden currently serves as the Cyber Subject Matter Expert for the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering, where he plays a crucial role in the development of cutting-edge cyber curriculum and the seamless integration of cybersecurity across all content areas. Chase holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Cybersecurity from the University of Alabama in Huntsville, as well as the Certified Information Security Professional, Certified Ethical Hacker, Junior Penetration Tester, and Security+ certification.



*Michelle Greene*  
*University of Alabama in*  
*Huntsville*

Dr. Michelle Greene is the Director of the Collaborative Learning Center at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she also serves a lecturer in Chemistry. She earned her PhD in Biochemistry at Indiana University Bloomington and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in Biochemistry at Emory University.



*Kaveh Heidary*  
*Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Kaveh Heidary is a professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Alabama A&M University, where he has been teaching since 1998. He received his BS, MS, and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from Syracuse University. His areas of research include signal and hyperspectral image processing, target detection and tracking, AI, and cybersecurity.



*Joshua Jones*  
*QuantHub*

Joshua Jones is the CEO of QuantHub, a global data literacy and upskilling software company based in Birmingham, Alabama. Prior to his role at QuantHub, Jones was founder and CEO of StrategyWise, an award-winning data science and AI consulting firm. A lifelong entrepreneur, Jones's career experience has spanned 6 startups, 40 countries, and 7 languages. He has been quoted by *Forbes*, *CIO.com*, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, and *Entrepreneur Magazine*, and he is a TEDx alum and regular speaker and lecturer in universities and conferences across the US. Jones earned his MBA at Emory University and his BSBA from the University of Alabama.



*Bob Lindquist*  
*University of Alabama in*  
*Huntsville*

Dr. Bob Lindquist is the Vice President for Research and Economic Development at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where he is also a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Dr. Lindquist's major research interests include optical networking devices, liquid crystal components, integrated electronics on glass, photonics, planar waveguides, and micro- and nanofabrication technologies. Prior to coming to UAH, Dr. Lindquist worked for Corning Incorporated, where he managed a liquid crystal development group and work as a senior research scientist. He holds more than a dozen US patents and has published over 50 journal and conference papers. Dr. Lindquist earned his PhD in Electrical Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.



*Jim Locke*  
*Auburn University at*  
*Montgomery*

James M. Locke, PhD, is Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Information Systems at Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM). He serves as the Director of the AUM College of Business AI Research Lab, which uses an NVIDIA supercomputer to support educational research, professional development, and AI consulting—both regionally and nationally. Dr. Locke led the development of the recently approved MS in Artificial Intelligence in the College of Business to be offered in Fall 2024. He earned a BA in Economics from Auburn University; OPM, Harvard School of Business Administration; MS and PhD in Management Information Systems from Auburn University.





*Andrew Magliozzi  
Mainstay*

For nearly two decades, Andrew Magliozzi has designed and built technology to help students learn and succeed. He currently serves as CEO of Mainstay, a student retention and success platform proven to boost enrollment, retention, and academic success in nine randomized controlled trials. A frequent commentator on issues of equity and innovation in education, Magliozzi has recently spoken at the ASU+GSV Summit, AACRAO, and the AI+Education Summit at Stanford University (CA). His writing has been published in *Inside Higher Ed*. Magliozzi is a graduate of Harvard College (MA) and Hack Reactor.



*Shiwen Mao  
Auburn University*

Shiwen Mao earned his BE and ME, both in Electronic Engineering, from Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, where he also earned a BEc in Enterprise Management. Mao earned an MS in Systems Engineering and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Polytechnic University (now NYU Tandon School of Engineering). Dr. Mao was a Postdoctoral Research Associate and then a Research Scientist in the Bradley Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). In 2006, he joined the faculty of Auburn University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. Currently, he is a Professor and Earle C. Williams Eminent Scholar and Director of the Wireless Engineering Research and Education Center (WEREC) at Auburn University.



*Douglas M. Matty  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville*

From 2020-2022, Dr. Douglas Matty served as the Director of Army Artificial Intelligence Capabilities, which is responsible for the development, coordination and synchronization of AI capability development for the Army. Commissioned in the Air Defense Artillery, Matty held leadership positions at the platoon, company and battalion levels, successive battery commands, and primary brigade staff. At the strategic leader level, Dr. Matty served as Personal Staff CG USF-I, CJCS Strategic Systems Analyst (JROC)/Division Chief J8, Division Chief for POM Development/PAED, HQDA G8 and Deputy Director, Capabilities Development Group USCYBERCOM. Dr. Matty's education includes a bachelor's degree in computer engineering (including minors in both electrical engineering and computer science) from the US Military Academy in West Point, NY. He has a master's degree in applied mathematics and a master's degree in national securities studies from the US Army War College. He also holds a PhD in Engineering Systems from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



*Robin McGill  
Alabama Commission on  
Higher Education*

Dr. Robin McGill serves as the Deputy Director for Academic Affairs at the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). She manages a broad academic and student success portfolio that includes academic program review, workforce development, sponsored programs, and college access and success initiatives. Dr. McGill also represents public higher education on various statewide committees, including the Alabama STEM Council and the Alabama Committee on Credentialing and Career Pathways. She holds a PhD in Classics from Brown University, along with a master's from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and a BA in Latin and Greek from the University of Georgia.



*Vineetha Menon  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville*

Dr. Vineetha Menon is the Dr. Terence Reed Endowed Associate Professor of Computer Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, where she also serves as the Director of the Big Data Analytics Lab. Dr. Menon's research interests include cyber security, remote sensing, hyperspectral classification, deep learning, computational biology, AI-driven drug discovery, interpretable machine learning, large language models, explainable AI, human-machine interfaces, and AI automation and trust factors. She earned her BTech degree in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, Bangalore, India and her PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Mississippi State University.



*Veronica Morin*  
*Alabama Community College*  
*System*

Dr. Veronica Morin is the Associate Director of STEM and Distance Education at the Alabama Community College System (ACCS), where she is leading an artificial intelligence working group for community and technical college faculty. Prior to her role at ACCS, Dr. Morin was the Assistant Director for STEM Outreach at Auburn University's College of Sciences and Mathematics. She earned her EdD in Higher Education Administration from the University of Alabama, and she holds master's and bachelor's degrees in Biology from Jacksonville State University.

*Israel Ncube*  
*Alabama A&M University*

Dr. Israel Ncube is a Professor of Mathematics at Alabama A&M University. His current research thrust straddles the areas of nonlinear analysis, infinite-dimensional dynamical systems, symmetry, and stochastic aspects of dynamics, with numerous applications in a variety of other fields, including AI, data science, neural learning algorithms, machine learning, biologically-inspired mathematical models, and the paradoxical interactions that exist between anaesthetic drugs and biological neural circuits. He received his PhD from the Faculty of Mathematics at the University of Waterloo, Canada. He also served as a Visiting Professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Part of his research programme is generously supported by the Department of Defense and the US Army Research Office.



*Edward Noriega*  
*Troy University*

Edward Noriega, a graduate of The Cooper Union, presently holds positions as a professor of graphic design and the Director of <<dti.center>> (The Center for Design, Technology, and Industry) at Troy University. Committed to utilizing design and technology to drive social change, Noriega prioritizes fostering creative thinking as essential to the creative economy. He has presented lectures on integrating technology into design education, both nationally and internationally. Additionally, he co-authored *Fundamentals for the Digital Age*, published by Wiley & Sons in 1998.



*Jennifer Pate*  
*University of North Alabama*

Jennifer Pate is an Associate Professor, Open Education Resources (OER) & Scholarly Communications Librarian at the University of North Alabama. She leads the campus OER initiative, which provides funding for faculty to find, assess, and develop OER for use in their courses. At UNA she also serves as a member of the campus-wide Generative AI task force. She holds master's degrees in both library science and instructional technology and design.



*Ravi Pendse*  
*University of Michigan*

Dr. Ravi Pendse has extensive experience as a successful and collaborative university leader, serving in executive roles at the University of Michigan, Brown University, Wichita State University and elsewhere. He has also been a professor, researcher, teacher and advisor to students. His successes include securing more than \$21 million in external research grants, developing innovative university courses, earning teaching awards, and publishing numerous scholarly articles and papers co-authored by students. In addition, he was invited to testify before the 114th Congress (2015-2017) on protecting sensitive data. Dr. Pendse holds a BS in Electronics and Communication Engineering from Osmania University in Hyderabad, India. He earned his MS and PhD in Electrical Engineering from Wichita State University.





*Mikel D. Petty  
University of Alabama in  
Huntsville*

Mikel D. Petty is a Professor Emeritus of Computer Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville and a Principal Research Scientist at UAH's Information Technology and Systems Center. He earned his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Central Florida. Since 1990, Dr. Petty has worked in modeling and simulation research and development in areas that include verification and validation methods, simulation interoperability and composability, human behavior modeling, multi-resolution simulation, and cybersecurity simulation. He has published over 255 research articles, chapters, and papers. He served on National Research Council and National Science Foundation committees on modeling and simulation, is a Certified Modeling and Simulation Professional, and served for five years as Editor-in-Chief of the scholarly journal *SIMULATION: Transactions of the Society for Modeling and Simulation International*.



*Rubin Pillay  
University of Alabama at  
Birmingham*

Dr. Rubin Pillay is a medical futurist and Professor of Preventive Medicine and Healthcare Innovation for the Heersink School of Medicine at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He also serves as Assistant Dean for Global Health Innovation and Chief Innovation Officer UAB Health System. He is a family physician and clinical pharmacologist and holds a PhD in Business Administration, MBA, and MS in Health Management. He has extensive international teaching and consulting experience and has published widely in the field of strategic health leadership. His current work focuses on the role of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship in the transformation of health and healthcare. He is the editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Health*.



*Rajendran Swamidurai  
Alabama State University*

Dr. Rajendran (Raj) Swamidurai is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). He earned his PhD in Computer Science and Software Engineering from Auburn University. Dr. Swamidurai is currently working as a professor and coordinator of computer science at Alabama State University, where he conducts research in the areas of reliable and secure software engineering and artificial intelligence. His research has been funded by the NSF, NASA, and the Navy, and he has also worked with the Army Research Lab (ARL).



*Jasmine Thomas  
Microsoft*

Jasmine Thomas is a Senior Director at Microsoft within its Technology for Fundamental Rights unit, which aims to use data and technology to promote responsible business practices, expand accessibility and meaningful connectivity, and advance fair and inclusive societies. Jasmine leads the Talent Ecosystem Partnerships pillar which works with universities and higher education associations to support programs and policy advocacy that cultivates inclusive, multidisciplinary talent to meet future demands for responsible innovation in data science, AI, and quantum computing. Jasmine has a BA in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland College Park. She has also earned a EdM from Teachers College, Columbia University; MSW from New York University, and MBAs from Columbia Business School and London Business School.



*Gilbert Traverse  
Oracle Corporation*

At Oracle, Gilbert runs the Advanced Technology Technical Architects team for Services Industries in North America, supporting Cloud Transformation projects for much of the Fortune 500. Since 2017, he has led various Emerging Technology programs, including the Global Emerging Tech Community of Practice, and he has served as a coach and mentor in Oracle's Innovation Epicenter incubator program. In addition to Emerging Technologies, Gilbert is a cyber security and data privacy expert and earned his CISSP certification in 2018. Gilbert holds a BS in Management and Economics from Ashland University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Defense and Strategic Studies from the University of Texas at El Paso with a focus on Cyber and Future Warfare.



*Jonathan White  
Huntsville Hospital*

Jonathan White, MD, serves as the Vice President of Medical Affairs and the Medical Director of Information Technology at Huntsville Hospital. He obtained his doctorate in medicine from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and completed his residency training in internal medicine at Carraway Medical Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. White's primary area of interest is the integration of healthcare data with provider workflow to enhance patient safety and improve clinical outcomes.



*Camesha Whittaker  
Propel Center*

Dr. Camesha Whittaker is the Senior Vice President of Innovation and Design at the Propel Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Under her leadership, the Propel Center launched its inaugural tech product, Propel Learn, in 2023. In addition, Dr. Whittaker leads Propel's virtual campus, overseeing product development, instructional design, curriculum development, research and development, faculty and consortia development. Before joining the executive leadership team at the Propel Center, Dr. Whittaker was the inaugural Director of the BJ Moore Center for Faculty Innovation and Associate Professor of Communication at Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. Dr. Whittaker earned a BA in Mass Communication from Bethune-Cookman University, a MA in Public Communication from American University in Washington, DC, and a PhD in Communication Studies, specializing in Organizational Communication, from Regent University in Virginia Beach, VA.



*Mia Oliver Williams  
Alabama State University*

Mia Oliver Williams serves as Director of Continuing Education at Alabama State University. She is also co-owner of Oliver2, LLC; Eduk8UsAll, LLC; Snapology of Auburn and Snapology of the River Region, an educational company, providing STEM-based learning opportunities using LEGO® and K'NEX. Mrs. Williams has previously served in roles that include teacher, instructor, assistant principal and principal in several Alabama school districts and postsecondary institutions. She has earned degrees in the areas of health science, curriculum and instruction, educational leadership and instructional technology from The University of Alabama at Birmingham, University of Phoenix, and Auburn University Montgomery, respectively. Mrs. Williams is currently pursuing her PhD in Instructional Leadership with a concentration in Instructional Technology at The University of Alabama.



*Sixue Zhang  
Southern Research*

Dr. Sixue Zhang is the Head of Computer-Aided Drug Discovery at Southern Research, a non-profit scientific research firm based in Birmingham, Alabama. He earned his PhD in Computational Chemistry from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. His team is part of the integrated drug discovery platform in Southern Research which leverages the latest artificial intelligence technology and next generation molecular modeling for the Design-Make-Test-Feedback cycle of iterative drug discovery. He has participated in more than 50 drug discovery projects covering oncology, neurology, infectious diseases, and other therapeutic areas. Besides advancing the drug discovery pipeline, Dr. Zhang also serves on editorial boards of scientific journals, contributes to professional committees, and presents at national and international conferences.