

WORKSHOP ORGANIZERS, SPEAKERS, FACILITATORS



Dr. Bleu Knight has diversified STEM at New Mexico State University over the last four years through coordinating research education activities for the Student Training & Research through United Partnerships (STARTUP) component of the Minority Biomedical Research Support Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement program. Prior to that, she spent two years developing and teaching undergraduate curricula comprising professional development activities, scientific writing, and ethics training for underrepresented undergraduate students interested in neuroscience research careers (participants in the NIH BLUEPRINT_ENDURE Neuroscience Research Program) at NMSU. Her research uses transcriptomics to illuminate programs that underlie developmental and transformative biological processes.



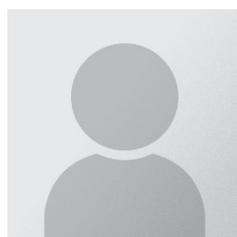
Professor Brazill received his BS in Biology from Stanford and his PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of California at Berkeley. After a post-doctoral position at Rice University, he accepted a position as an Assistant Professor at Hunter College in 1999. He is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences at Hunter. In addition, he is the Director of the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, which is designed to increase the number of underrepresented minorities pursuing PhD degrees in the biomedical sciences. During his time at Hunter, Dr. Brazill has received several honors including being the inaugural speaker for the “Lecture in Mentoring Excellence” at the National Institutes of Health, and the recipient of the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers, “the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on outstanding scientists and engineers beginning their independent careers”. Professor Brazill studies how secreted proteins regulate cell adhesion and motility. Loss of regulation can lead to defects and diseases including metastatic cancer and atherosclerosis. This research has received over \$2 million in grant funding from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.



Edmundo Medina is the Graduate Assistant of HSI STEM HUB.



Dr. Elba Serrano, NMSU Regent’s Professor, earned her Ph.D. in biological sciences from Stanford University and an undergraduate degree in physics from the University of Rochester. Her laboratory investigates brain therapeutics that target neuroglia cells, sensory disorders of hearing and balance, and neurogenetics. At the national level, Dr. Serrano is a prominent contributor to the development of policy for STEM research and workforce development. She has served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the NIH Director, Dr. Francis Collins and as co-Chair of the NIH ACD Working Group on Diversity. Dr. Serrano is an elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and her achievements in promoting student success have been recognized with a SACNAS Distinguished Mentor Award, an Alfred P. Sloan Distinguished Mentor Award, and a Presidential Award for Excellence in Mentoring in Science, Engineering, and Math.



Esther Wilder is a Professor of Sociology at Lehman College.



Dr. Jeanette Wilmanski is an Associate Professor of Biology and the Assistant Director of the Honors Program at Saint Peter's University (SPU). She has been at SPU since 2007 and serves as the PI of the recently awarded NSF IUSE-HSI Track 1 Building Capacity project titled STEM Transformative Experiences (TREX) (#1832464). She also serves as one of the key personnel on the NSF-funded Opening Pathways, Engaging, and Networking in Chemistry in Northern New Jersey (OPEN-NJ) project (#1458499). OPEN-NJ offers SPU students financial support while they are enrolled in Montclair State University's graduate program in chemistry. Previously, she has served as the Director of the Practical Application of Research in Science Education (PARSE) Institute. PARSE provides opportunities to middle and high school science teachers and students to participate in collaborative, hands-on research with scientists. Dr. Wilmanski was one of the key personnel for the NSF-funded NOYCE grant (#1660621) advising aspiring STEM teachers K-12 at SPU. For two years, Dr. Wilmanski was the STEM High School Outreach Coordinator for DOE STEM Undergraduate Retention, Graduation and Empowerment (SURGE) (PO31C160038).



Dr. Jeffrey Alexander has served as Dean of Arts & Sciences at Pueblo Community College since 2015. He received his Ph.D. in History from the University of British Columbia in Vancouver in 2005, and he has taught the history of Japan, China, World History, and writing courses at both 2-year and 4-year colleges. Until 2015, Dr. Alexander served as Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, where he also served as Associate Dean of Arts & Sciences. At Pueblo Community College, Dr. Alexander oversees several Departments offering Transfer and CTE programs, as well as the college's STEM Center. He has helped to lead a variety of initiatives, including implementing Guided Pathways, installing EAB Navigate, adopting Open Educational Resources, increasing PCC Online course offerings, and establishing transfer guides with partner universities. He currently leads an HSI program grant from the National Science Foundation aimed at improving Hispanic student completion in STEM programs. Dr. Alexander is the author of three books on Japan's history, including *Drinking Bomb & Shooting Meth: Alcohol and Drug Use in Japan* (2018).



John Montanez John Montanez, the Dean of the Office of Sponsored Programs at BMCC, is responsible for identifying potential funding sources as well as initiating, writing and coordinating the preparation of large institutional proposals. An experienced administrator, Montanez has brought a solid background of leadership and management to BMCC, overseeing an annual (grants) portfolio of \$10 million. In recent years, he worked closely with faculty and staff in developing numerous college wide initiatives aimed at promoting student success and developing new flagship programs for the college. From 1987 to 1992, he served as BMCC's Director of Continuing Education and was responsible for overseeing both tuition-based and workforce development programs. He participated in city wide efforts to establish linkages with key agencies in the public, as well as private sector, which led to the development of initiatives in the area of Business (IBM AS/400 Training), Health Services (Emergency Medical Technician), Child Care and Adult Literacy. Prior to joining BMCC, Montanez served as the Special Assistant to the President at Hostos Community College, overseeing enrollment management and strategic planning. He is a graduate of Teachers College, Columbia University, where he earned a Masters degree in Developmental Psychology and holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. John's University.



John Tsapogas is Director of Pre-Proposal Support at the Research Foundation of the City University of New York. In his current role he is responsible for managing a set of programs that are geared to increasing the number and competitiveness of research proposals and other sponsored project activity across the campuses of the City University of New York. In his previous position he was Program Director for Global Initiatives at the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Office of International Science and Engineering (OISE). As Program Director of the Global Initiatives program he was administratively responsible for 3 major activities: the Partnerships for International Research and Education (PIRE), co-funding program activities within NSF (such as OISE's international research fellowships and NSF's Global Venture Fund), and international evaluation and assessment activities. Previous jobs at the National Science Foundation include serving as a program officer in the Directorate for Social Sciences where he conducted studies and surveys on scientific issues. He has authored and coauthored reports and studies on U.S. investments in science and engineering and on science and engineering education and workforce issues. His publications include reports on federal research and development, the characteristics of recent college graduates and doctoral scientists and engineers, and reports on the role community colleges play in the education of science and engineering graduates. John Tsapogas has over 35 years of experience working as a director and program officer, senior analyst, and economist in the Federal Government and has worked in the following Federal agencies: the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and International Labor Affairs Bureau, the U.S. Department of Commerce,

International Trade Administration, the International Trade Commission, and the National Science Foundation. His undergraduate work was completed at Queens College of the City University of New York and his graduate work was at three institutions: Columbia University, George Mason University, and Georgetown University.

Dr. Joseph Barba, is a professor of Electrical Engineering at the Grove School of Engineering, City College of New York. He has served as Deputy Provost and as the founding dean of the Grove School of Engineering. He is currently the PI on the NSF grant “Building Capacity: City College of New York STEM Communities.” Dr. Barba is involved in other workforce development initiatives. He serves as Co-PI on the NSF grant “The Hispanic Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate (H-AGEP),” Co-PI on the US-DoE grant “CCNY Initiative to Promote Academic Success in STEM (CiPASS),” and Co-PI on a NYS-DoE STEP grant. Dr. Barba is the Director of the NY STEM Institute and has served as the faculty advisor to the Latin American Engineering Student Association – Society Hispanic Professional Engineers (LAESA-SHPE) since 1984.



Liesl Jones. I received my PhD in Neuroscience in 1997 and following a postdoctoral fellowship at Mount Science I moved to Lehman college as an Assistant Professor in the department of Biological Sciences at Lehman College where I moved through the ranks to Full Professor and ran a research lab investigating Schizophrenia. On July 1, 2015 I left the CUNY system to continue my growth and to challenge myself in a new environment as the founding Dean of STEM at Union County College, a public community college in New Jersey. The Division of STEM has 48 full time faculty, 140 adjunct faculty and over 1500 students and carries more than 1/3 of the student credit hours for the college. In addition to the STEM Division, I ran Grants and Sponsored Programs. In the 2017-2018 academic year 5.8 million dollars was awarded to the college through grants, including an NSF IUSE grant for 1.5 million. Most recently I developed an undergraduate research program funded by the Division and now supported by an ISUE grant as well as an Undergraduate Research Journal for Community College students. From October 2017 to June of 2018 I was the Interim Dean of Humanities. During that time, I worked to build a bridge between STEM and Humanities to better integrate STEM into Humanities and Humanities into STEM.



Dr. MariaElena Zavala has been a professor at CSUN for the last 30 years, where she has pioneered the Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC) and Research Initiative for Scientific Enhancement (RISE) diversity programs for STEM. She earned her undergraduate degree in Botany from Pomona College and her PhD in Botany from UC Berkeley. Dr. Zavala’s research focuses on the developmental regulation of plants. She served as president of the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS), and was elected to the ASPB Executive Committee. Her achievements in research and mentoring have been recognized with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering, the CSU Trustee Faculty award, and her societal appointments as a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Society for Plant Biology, and American Society for Cell Biology.



Dr. Martha Desmond is a Regents Professor at NMSU in the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology. She received her BA in Environmental Studies from Wells College and MS and PhD in wildlife ecology from the University of Nebraska where she studied burrowing owl population ecology. She completed an NSF International Postdoctoral Fellowship working with the Universidad Autónoma de Chihuahua and Texas A&M. Her avian ecology research focuses on birds in grassland and aridland systems as well as urban environments. While working in the border region, she became interested in educational programs for diverse communities. Educational programs that she has developed have mentored thousands of students locally and nationally across natural resource fields, working collaboratively with federal agencies on the development of diverse workforces.



Dr. Monica Torres oversees the planning, development and implementation of educational programs at Dona Ana Community College. She works collaboratively with deans, division directors, department chairs and program directors to meet the needs of a diverse community of learners at the community college and the community at large. Dr. Torres has also previously served as an assistant professor, associate professor and department head at NMSU’s Department of English. There, she taught classes, advised graduate students and performed research. As department head she oversaw the operation of the department including curricular, teaching and administrative functions. Torres has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in English from NMSU. She earned a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in American Studies with an emphasis in Cultural Studies.

