

STEM Innovation: A Panel Discussion

Innovation in the Nation

Friday, August 4, 2017 at 2 PM

Phillips Auditorium

Refreshments will be served

Moderator

Mr. Raid M. Suleiman

Panelists

Mr. AJ Perez

Dr. Catherine Espaillat

Ms. Chiderah Okoye

Ms. Fatimah Kabba

Mr. Greyson Watkins

Mr. Raid M. Sulemain



Raid Suleiman is a physicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA), working in the Atomic and Molecular Physics Division, and the Solar, Stellar, and Planetary Sciences Division.

Raid is responsible for SAO operational data products (BrO, OClO, and CHOCHO) from OMI, and NO₂ from GOME2. Additionally, he is a member of the Orbiting Carbon Observatory 2 (OCO₂) Science Team and a Co-I on NASA's TEMPO project where he is responsible for BrO, H₂O and Level3 data products. Similarly, he is responsible for managing the TEMPO's Instrument Operations Center (IOC) and the Science Data Processing Center (SDPC) as a data manager. Locally, Raid has enjoyed serving on the Center for Astrophysics (CfA) Computation Facility Scientific Advisory Committee (CSFAC).

Raid is the PI and the Chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee of the Arab Winter School for Astrophysics (AWSA). Both the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the Office for Astronomy Development (OAD) have endorsed AWSA. He is one of the founders of the Arab Astronomical Society (ArAS).

Raid has been involved in local politics. He was elected and served on the Boxborough School Committee and Board of Selectmen for six years and one year on the Conservation Commission.

Mr. AJ Perez



AJ is Chairman and President of NVBOTS® and leads business activities at NVLabs. He is an expert in manufacturing process automation and additive manufacturing, and has taught graduate-level courses in 3D printing at MIT. AJ is an

innovator with patents in a variety of areas including robotics, additive manufacturing, and instrument design. He received the Lemelson-MIT prize and Jerome Lemelson fellowship in recognition of his inventions, and has been named a Boston Globe Hive "25 under 25". He holds a Masters in Advanced Manufacturing and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.

Dr. Catherine Espailat



Dr. Catherine Espailat's research focuses on understanding how planets form around young stars, particularly by characterizing the "footprints" that planets leave behind as they form.

She received her bachelor's degree from Columbia University in 2003 and earned a Ph.D. in Astrophysics from the University of Michigan in 2009. She went on to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics as an NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellow and a NASA Carl Sagan Fellow. Dr. Espailat joined the Department of Astronomy at Boston University as an Assistant Professor in 2013. She is 2016 Sloan Research Fellow, a Kavli Fellow, and a recipient of the National Science Foundation's CAREER award.

Ms. Chiderah Okoye



Chiderah Okoye is the Executive Director of the Venly Institute. The Venly Institute partners with local Chambers of Commerce to help businesses grow, create jobs, and strengthen their communities.

Chiderah began her career in account and channel management roles for Rockwell Automation. She later transitioned to roles in manufacturing distribution where she led a team of specialists focused on automation solutions to the New England manufacturing market.

Chiderah currently serves as the President for the Boston Professional Chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers. She also serves as Chair for Boston's Affinity Leadership Consortium – a forum of Greater Boston leaders collaborating on diverse programming initiatives. In 2015, Chiderah was selected by the World Economic Forum to join the Boston Hub of the Global Shapers where she currently serves as the Hub's operations lead.

In February 2017, Chiderah was appointed by Governor Charlie Baker to serve on the newly commissioned Black Advisory Council for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Ms. Fatimah Kabba

Fatimah Kabba is a designer and brand writer focused on the interplay of design and technology. She is co-founder and Chief Design Officer at Minimum, a new communication platform for designers and product teams.



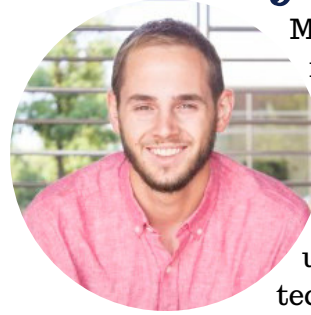
After earning her B.A. at the School of Visual Arts in New York, she has spent her career moving between the agency and startup worlds. In particular, she has garnered deep experiences in UX, writing, visual design, and strategy while working with clients such as JCP, HBO, and Bevel.

Leveraging narrative writing, she develops projects ranging from brand systems and web experiences to interactive data visualizations and physical product designs. Her work has led her to numerous collaborations, most notably working to improve the White House's open source "We the People API" as well as this year's influential Design in Tech Report.

She is currently a deferred Masters candidate for Sustainable International Development at the Heller School at Brandeis University where she will further explore her interests in communication, community, narrative development and architecture in the public domain through the lens of design and technology.

Mr. Greyson Watkins

Mr. Greyson Watkins is the innovative Deaf entrepreneur behind Wavio, a product innovation startup creating next generation home accommodation systems using Internet of Things (IoT) technologies. With computing



security and Linux system engineering tenures at NetApp in Silicon Valley and Datto in Connecticut, he acquired the necessary technical and business skills for his ventures. He uses his go-getter personality in order to continuously explore all possible channels and opportunities for entrepreneurship. Greyson has a passion for inspiring other blooming entrepreneurs and he prides himself as a habitual collector of knowledge. Originally from Durham, North Carolina, he attended Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) for undergraduate studies and currently provides business coaching and consulting services.

We would like to give special recognition to the Smithsonian Latino Center, who administered the federal funding for the SAO Latino Initiative Program through the Latino Initiatives Pool. Their support has been invaluable to the Program's development and success.