

A DISCUSSION ON:
**THE SUPPLY-SIDE
ECONOMICS OF A
STEM DEGREE**

**FRIDAY
JULY 29TH
PHILLIPS AUDITORIUM**

MODERATOR:

DR. DINA MYERS STROUD

PANELISTS:

DR. EVELYNN HAMMONDS

MS. SHELLY LOWE

DR. SOPHIA CISNEROS

MR. RAUL PORRAS

MR. JIBRIL JAHA

MS. ANGELA BASSA

DR. DINA MYERS STROUD



Dina Myers Stroud is the Executive Director of the Fisk-Vanderbilt Master's to PhD Bridge Program, whose mission is to increase the number of underrepresented minorities in the STEM workforce and academe. Dr. Stroud is a Research Assistant Professor in the Departments of Physics and Astronomy and Medicine at Vanderbilt University and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Physics at Fisk. Dr. Stroud received B.A. degrees in Zoology and Women's Studies from Ohio Wesleyan University and earned her PhD in Molecular Biology from Vanderbilt. After post-doctoral fellowships at UCLA and NYU, Dr. Stroud returned to Vanderbilt in 2007. There her research focuses on cardiovascular genetics using mouse models of heart disease. She joined the Fisk-Vanderbilt Executive Team in 2012 and has overseen significant growth in the program and generated tools to improve student mentoring and tracking.

MS. SHELLY LOWE



Shelly C. Lowe is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation. She is Bilagaana, born for Náneesht'ézhí Tách'iinii. Her paternal grandfather's clan is Tábaahí. Ms. Lowe grew up on the Navajo Reservation in Ganado, Arizona. She is currently the Executive Director of the Harvard University Native American Program and was previously the Assistant Dean for Native American Affairs in the Yale College Deans Office and Director of the Native American Cultural Center at Yale University. Prior to her position at Yale, she spent six years as the Graduate Education Program Facilitator for the American Indian Studies Programs at The University of Arizona. Ms. Lowe is currently a member of the National Endowment for the Humanities Council, an appointment she received from President Obama. She has served on the board of the National Indian Education Association and as a Board of Trustee for the National Museum of the American Indian. She currently serves on the board of The University of Arizona Beantown Cats Alumni Chapter. Ms. Lowe has presented and published in the field of American Indian higher education.

DR. EVELYNN HAMMONDS



Professor Hammonds is the Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and Professor of African and African American Studies. She was the first Senior Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Diversity at Harvard University (2005-2008). From 2008-2013 she served as Dean of Harvard College. She holds honorary degrees from Spelman College and Bates College. Professor Hammonds' areas of research include the histories of science, medicine and public health in the United States; race and gender in science studies; feminist theory and African American history. She is the author of *Childhood's Deadly Scourge: The Campaign to Control Diphtheria in New York City, 1880-1930* (1999). She was co-editor with Jennifer M. Shephard and Stephen M. Kosslyn of *The Harvard Sampler: Liberal Education for the Twenty-First Century* (2011) and with Rebecca Herzig, *The Nature of Difference: Sciences of Race in the United States from Jefferson to Genomics* (2008; and 2013.) She has published articles on the history of disease, race and science, African American feminism, African-American women and the epidemic of HIV/AIDS and analyses of gender and race in science and medicine. Professor Hammonds' current work focuses on the intersection of scientific, medical and socio-political concepts of race in the United States. She served as a Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer (2003-2005), a visiting scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin, a Post-doctoral Fellow in the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and a Visiting Professor at UCLA and at Hampshire College. Professor Hammonds was named a Fellow of the Association of Women in Science (AWIS) in 2008. She served on the Board of Trustees of Spelman College and currently on the Board of the Arcus Foundation and Board of Overseers of the Museum of Science in Boston.

Professor Hammonds earned a Ph.D. in the history of science from Harvard University, an S.M. in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), a B.E.E. in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, and a B.S. in physics from Spelman College. She taught for ten years at MIT where she was the founding director of the MIT Center for the Study of Diversity in Science, Technology, and Medicine. In 2010 she was appointed to President Barack Obama's Board of Advisers on Historically Black Colleges and Universities and in 2014 to the President's Advisory Committee on Excellence in Higher Education for African Americans. She served as a member of the congressionally mandated oversight committee of the National Science Foundation (CEOSE), the Advisory Committee of the EHR directorate of the NSF, and the Advisory Committee on the Merit Review Process of the National Science Foundation. She is currently director of the Project on Race & Gender in Science & Medicine at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard.

MR. RAUL PORRAS



Raul Porras is a co-founder of the Latino STEM Alliance, a Boston-based non-profit that inspires and empowers underserved youth to achieve educational and career success in STEM fields. Mr. Porras also serves in other STEM-related organizations across the commonwealth, including the Central MA STEM Network and has served in advisory roles for the Art of Science Learning initiative in Worcester and Sneakers to Beakers among others.

Raul currently works as an Enterprise Architect at SAP, a global software firm where he helps customers align strategic business objectives with long-term Information Technology roadmaps.

He is a fellow of the UMass Boston Emerging Leaders Program, holds a dual MBA/MSIT degree from Bentley University and a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Simon Bolivar University. Raul is originally from Venezuela.

MS. ANGELA BASSA



Angela Bassa leads Data Science at EnerNOC; her team's groundbreaking accomplishments in cloud infrastructure and energy analytics maximize data insights on a real-time global scale. She also serves as a Technical Advisor for Mirah, a Boston-based MedTech startup focused on making mental healthcare more objective and data-driven. Her projects have gone on to earn accolades such as INFORMS' Edelman award for Achievement in Operations Research and the Management Sciences; and the

Massachusetts Innovation & Technology Exchange award for Big Data and Analytics Innovations.

Angela discovered data science while studying Math at MIT, only it wasn't called that yet. Over the past two decades she has learned to lead data teams in academic, commercial, and industrial applications. She also has one patented invention, and 24 patents pending in the US, the EU, and Australia.

DR. SOPHIA CISNEROS

Dr. Sophia N. Cisneros is an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians of Oregon. She is Hanis Coos on her paternal grandfather's side, and French and Russian Jew on her maternal grandmother's side. She was raised in the usual and accustomed territories of the Lower Umpqua and Coos. The current day reservation is limited to Coos Bay, due to termination era policy. The Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Tribes were restored in 1984, after a 30 year legal battle. Cisneros is the first Native American woman physicist in the United States, and was mentored by the first Native American physicist Dr. Fred Begay at Los Alamos National Laboratory. Cisneros is a co-founder of the Math|Culture|Environment Academy and the Native Education Science Initiative. She is currently preparing for a new position at the University of Denver as an assistant teaching professor in physics and astronomy. She has been a postdoctoral fellow (2011-2014) in physics at MIT Laboratory for Nuclear Science and now a visiting researcher with them. Her work focuses on rotation curves of spiral galaxies and obviating the need for dark matter in these systems. She plans to maintain her galaxy research group at UMass Boston and Boston University, where she was an adjunct professor 2014-2016. Cisneros earned her PhD in physics at New Mexico State University in 2011, and her Masters in physics at the City College of New York in 2006.

MR. JIBRIL JAHA



Born in London, UK. Raised in Saint Louis, MO and my family is from Mafere, Tanzania. I was born profoundly Deaf and attended at an Oral Deaf school and mainstreamed from 4th grade to highschool. I attended Rochester Institute of Technology and graduated with Bachelor of Sciences in Multidisciplinary Studies concentrating Biotechnology as well as courses from

Innovation/Business Management. I also took Deaf Studies as minor. Upon graduating I started work at USDA as a Biological Scientist for 1 year and 9 months, left the position to start up a company called Iseewhatyousay, Deaf technology company and today I founded and work full time as a social entrepreneur at eSTEAM+D, a social initiative to empower Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics for all people with Disabilities.

In my spare time, I like to ride my fixie, crossfit, read books and spend time with family/friends.

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