STI Forum 2024 Session: Advancing sustainable development with women-centered science and technology solutions

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Organization: IEEE - Institute Electronic and Electrical Engineering

Thank you all for being here this afternoon. It is a great honor to speak to you as the President-Elect of IEEE—the world’s largest technical professional society, where I will be serving as the 5th woman in our 140 year history. At IEEE, we leverage our engineering expertise, standards, and a vibrant global network of over 460,000 technologists across 190 countries to fulfill our mission of: advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. As an engineer and as a professor at University of San Diego in Electrical Engineering, it’s a given to me that I will find myself in the minority, often that I might be the only one, due to my gender when working and learning in IEEE’s technical fields of interest. This must change. We cannot hope to address gender divides in research and innovation without first bridging the gender disparities within the technical workforce. This is crucial for developing sustainable solutions that can transform our world.

Just to give additional context and you important data points of gender in engineering education for undergrad in computer and electrical engineering seat at 15%. Let’s think about this number for a moment and given our knowledge of the leaky pipeline from study to career. How are we bringing the digital divide and AI gap if we don’t have women seated at the table, actively designing and implementing these solutions and aware of their potential social implications?

At IEEE, this is a significant priority, and, frankly, one of my main five priorities as 2025 President.

Our mission is to connect, support, and inspire women and girls worldwide, and facilitate their recruitment and retention in STEM fields, fostering technological innovation and excellence for the benefit of humanity is led by our IEEE Women in Engineering, but is fully embraced throughout the organization, including our Technical Activities and global regional activities.
We are committed to gender equality in the engineering field to support the enabling environment needed to achieve global prosperity where nobody is left behind. Thank you.