

## Women in Leadership League

# WILL CONFERENCE

Friday, March 10, 2023  
8:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m., PDT.  
[SJSU Student Union Ballroom](#)

KEYNOTE PANEL				MODERATOR
				
<b>GABRIELLE CAPOLUPO</b>	<b>MONIQUE EDMONDSON</b>	<b>SONAL SINHA</b>	<b>LUCIA SOARES</b>	<b>CYNTHIA TENIENTE-MATSON, PHD.</b>
Engineering Office of the CTO, Juniper Networks	Senior Director, Employee Experiences, Cisco	Partner, PwC Consulting, Cloud and Digital	Chief Information Officer, The Carlyle Group	President, San José State University

## REGISTER HERE

On Friday, March 10, 2023, the Lucas College of Business will host the 6th Annual Women in Leadership League Conference, in person. This conference brings together top Silicon Valley leaders, alumni, and students from all disciplines. The day is a mix of a keynote speaker panel discussion and breakout group discussions, providing participants with inspirational experiences as well as practical advice and strategies from successful leaders. Hear about career and life journeys and personal perspectives on leadership. There will be many opportunities to ask questions and for informal conversations. Breakfast will be provided.

## Event Sponsors

JUNIPER  
NETWORKS

CISCO

On behalf of the Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, we would like to take a moment to thank those who generously donated to our 2022 Day of Giving Campaign. Thank you for your support and for making a difference in students' lives.

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### Participating Organizations:



Program

8:15 a.m. - Check-in and Breakfast

## Part A

9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

[Keynote Speaker Panel](#) of influential Silicon Valley leaders. View the recording of the panel discussion [here](#).

- **Gabrielle Capolupo**, Engineering Office of the CTO, Juniper Networks
- **Monique Edmondson**, Senior Director, Employee Experiences, Cisco
- **Sonal Sinha**, Partner, PwC Consulting, Cloud and Digital
- **Lucia Soares**, Chief Information Officer, The Carlyle Group

Moderated by SJSU President, [Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson](#)

## Part B

*Networking with a Purpose: Birds of a Feather* table discussions with [Industry Mentors](#) from top Silicon Valley Companies.

10:30 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. - Session 1

11:40 a.m. - 12:35 p.m. - Session 2

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For questions please contact: [womeninleadership@sjsu.edu](mailto:womeninleadership@sjsu.edu)

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## Keynote Panel Speakers



[Gabrielle Capolupo](#)

Engineering Office of the CTO  
Juniper Networks

Ms. Capolupo has been with Juniper Networks since February 2007. She currently works for the Engineering CTO office and is responsible for providing program management for the Junos Architecture Council and a network service provisioning application project. She also started and manages the Juniper Women in Engineering (JWIE) employee resource group. Previously, she provided program management for the Juniper Distinguished Engineering (DE) and Principal Engineering (PE) communities. This included managing the Juniper DE PE Council - responsible for approving DE PE promotions and new hires, as well as the annual DE Summit. Previously in this team, she was responsible for project managing several DEs working on major OS library re-architecture. Prior to her work in the CTO office, she was Sr. Director of Junos Governance, responsible for policy, process, criteria and schedule for all Junos OS software releases.

Prior to Juniper Networks, in her more than 11 years with Cisco Systems, she was Sr. Engineering Manager for the IOS Packet Engineering Group, responsible for large-scale corporate level software infrastructure planning and implementation. In addition, previous roles included remotely managing the Edge Services software team in Bangalore India, the collective hardware and software engineering teams for the leading

Broadband Aggregation platform, and the IOS Source Code team, responsible for all major source code integration.

Prior to her employment with Cisco Systems, Ms. Capolupo spent over seven years at various positions at Novell, Inc. Ms. Capolupo has served as a lead judge for the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition since 1995, after participating as a graduate student for San Jose State University. She has made a number of industry panel presentations including sessions for Women in Technology International (WITI), Women in International Trade (WIT), Women Unlimited, and the Project Management Institute of Silicon Valley.

Beginning in 2022, Ms. Capolupo is a professional mentor for the TechWomen program, which is sponsored by the US Department of State. Ms. Capolupo received her Master of Business Administration from San José State University and her Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she was a member of the Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society and the Men's Varsity Crew.

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[Monique Edmondson](#)

Senior Director, Employee Experiences  
Cisco

Monique is an IT and Employee Resource Organization leader who builds outstanding workplaces and performance driven organizations. She is an

expert in customer centric design for employees and customers creating experiences at scale and for growth. Her vast network and empathy led leadership enable her to attract, hire and retain top talent. She is a Senior Director at Cisco Systems leading employee experiences and transforming the Future of Work for 75K+ employees. Her vast expertise in collaboration technologies and management of a remote global teams of over 400 people with a budget of \$100M annually, gives her a unique perspective on how to lead in the new hybrid and remote work environments. Through her 25 years of experience at Cisco, she has the expertise to navigate through both the hyper-growth periods as well as when a company needs to spend time on optimization strategies. She knows how to consider the strategy, portfolio management, budget considerations, and talent engagement through these important company transitions. As the leader of the largest Employee Resource Organization at Cisco and being a pillar of the Diversity and Inclusion community, Monique knows how to create and grow employee inclusion strategies. Her network of people is robust and reaches across various technology companies where she is a connector who brings opportunities to her broad peer group. She was recognized as a top 100 Women of Influence in 2018 by the Silicon Valley Business Journal and has been a speaker at several diversity and inclusion conferences. She has been recognized by the Huffington Post and the Wall Street Journal for innovative millennial assimilation.

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[Sonal Sinha](#)

Partner  
PwC Consulting, Cloud and Digital

Sonal is a Partner in PwC's Cloud innovation and engineering practice and is passionate about helping clients achieve their business goals through people process and technology transformation. With over 23+ yrs of experience, she is dedicated to enabling client success through creating high performing diverse, innovative teams for greater return on investment for her clients.

Her areas of expertise include:

- Building and enabling IT functions leveraging ServiceNow as a platform for IT service management, IT service operations, IT Asset Management, change, incident and case, GRC, and low code no code paas for custom workflow design.
- M&A, divestitures - collaboration with investors, boards, CIO , Operations leaders to design and enable tech strategy and implementation aligned with future state operating model.
- Governance, Risk and Compliance - helping clients build enterprise GRC programs to manage risk through change management, governance and operating models, GRC tech, process optimization and automation.

Sonal is passionate about diversity, mentorship, and supportive initiatives for women in technology. Her passions outside work include fitness, fine wine, music, travel and cooking. Her husband and her have two teenage kids who are both nationally rated epee fencers. She holds a joint MBA from Columbia University and UC Berkeley and a BS in Information Technology from The University of Texas at Arlington. Sonal is passionate about giving back to the community and serves on the Board of Directors for the YMCA, Silicon Valley. She's a member of Chief, an executive women leadership organization and serves as Diversity and Inclusion Partner for her practice.

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## [Lucia Soares](#)

Chief Information Officer  
The Carlyle Group

Lúcia Soares serves as Chief Information Officer for The Carlyle Group, a multinational private equity, alternative asset management and financial services corporation with \$376 billion of assets under management. In this role, she oversees the Global Portfolio Solutions Technology organization providing technology advisory to Carlyle investment teams and working with portfolio company executives to transform business operations and outcomes. Working with over 200 portfolio companies that have a combined technology spend of \$4B+, Lúcia sets portfolio technology strategy and oversees technology growth initiatives and cybersecurity resiliency to drive business value creation.

With more than 25 years of technology, Ms. Soares has held a variety of leadership roles. Ms. Soares began her career working for an early Internet professional services agency, USWeb / marchFIRST where she partnered with clients to build first-generation web solutions and built the west coast User Experience practice and led its Project Management Office. She spent 15 years at Johnson & Johnson, serving a variety of executive roles, including CIO and board member of multiple high-growth medical device businesses. Ms. Soares led software development teams and created technology strategies to grow and optimize businesses with the use of technology, including creating an enterprise health technology strategy and launch of digital products. She then served as Managing Director at

Health2047 leading venture formations that addressed U.S. healthcare challenges.

Ms. Soares serves on the board of directors for Hexaware, an IT services and consulting firm and for The Hilb Group, an independent insurance broker firm where she is also a member of the Risk and Audit Committee. She also sits on the board of HITEC, a non-profit organization that provides a forum for the career development and advancement of Hispanic technology executives.

Ms. Soares completed Executive Education coursework at Harvard Business School, and earned an MBA from San José State University, a Master's in literature from UC Santa Cruz, and a B.A. in foreign languages from San Jose State University where she graduated Summa Cum Laude.

## Industry Mentors



[Usha Andra](#)

Leader, Product Marketing  
Cisco

Usha Andra is an experienced product marketer and leads a marketing team in the Cisco Customer and Solutions Marketing (CSM) team with a focus on Cisco's Cloud and Data Center Networking connectivity, cloud managed platforms and cloud-native initiatives around automation, orchestration and insights with Cisco Nexus Cloud and Nexus Dashboard along with Cisco Nexus switching for 400G/800G. Prior to this role, she was responsible for developing gold-standard global thought leadership initiatives with the Cisco Service Provider and multi-domain marketing teams where she was a lead analyst on network performance, telemetry and usage analysis with the Cisco Annual Internet Report, Cisco Visual Networking Index (VNI) and Cisco Global Cloud Index (GCI) — the company's efforts to forecast and analyze the growth and use of the Internet, IP networks and cloud based networks worldwide — resulting in successful launches for the SP product portfolio. Usha has been with the company for 17 years. She started her career with Cisco's Strategic Marketing Organization focusing on the Enterprise and Consumer segments doing market share and share of wallet. She is an MBA/BSEE and has served as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Business at SJSU, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses, and is a frequent speaker at industry conferences.



[Rebecca Biswas](#)

Director of Mechanical/ Thermal Engineering  
Juniper Networks

After completing her undergraduate in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), India, Rebecca came to the US in 1996. She did her Masters in Mechanical Engineering with a specialization in Electronics Cooling from San Jose State University. Over 22 years of Mechanical / Thermal design and development, including setting up a Mechanical design and engineering division in India, Vendor management with a leading contract manufacturer, and leading corporations. Rebecca has successfully deployed products from concept through production while working closely with clients during the specification, design, and prototype phases. She found her passion for product development and always looking forward to developing processes that will help design better to build a world-class product. Rebecca is a Professional Mentor to the TechWomen Program, an initiative from the US Department of State affairs to empower emerging women leaders from Sub Sahara Africa, the Middle East, and Central and South Asian countries.

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[Kiki Canny](#)

CX Specialist  
Discord

Prior to joining Discord Victoria spent almost 3 years as the Development and Marketing Coordinator for Friends for Youth, a community organization to help kids at risk. She currently continues to be a volunteer mentor for the organization. Kiki received her BA in Psychology from the University of San Francisco and studied abroad in Tokyo for a semester. Her passions include gaming, playing the guitar, and trying new sparkling water flavors.

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[Addy Casillas](#)

Program Manager  
Contrast Security

Addy is currently in a startup emerging SMB environment as a Program Manager interfacing with Product Management, Engineering and Customer Success. She is also a United States Army Veteran, and graduate of San José State University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Analytics. Addy has a passion for empowering young women by mentoring them from personal experience and connecting them with pertinent resources.

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[Annie Chen](#)

Sr. Director of Consumer Business  
Trend Micro Inc.

Annie is a senior-level business professional with 20 years of software industry experience, ranging from product marketing, online marketing, e-commerce operation, to business management. She currently serves as Sr. Director at Trend Micro, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, and is in charge of the consumer business in North American and European markets. Annie has a track record of driving business results through strategic planning and solid execution, and she is known for her ability to build and lead talented and motivated global teams. Annie cares deeply about diversity and inclusion and is part of Trend Micro's Trending Women's initiative, which is designed to help women enter and grow in the world of cybersecurity. She holds a B.S. in International Business from Taiwan University and an MBA degree from the University of Washington.



### [Laura Chmielewski](#)

VP of Marketing and Communications  
Visit San Jose

Laura is a destination marketing and public relations leader with 20 years of experience planning and implementing initiatives to drive revenue growth through cultural tourism strategies. Laura currently serves as Vice President for Marketing and Communications at Team San Jose, the Convention and Visitor Bureau for San Jose. Previously, Laura served as Deputy Director for the Chicago Office of Tourism, in the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs, where she was responsible for envisioning and overseeing strategies to drive leisure tourism to the City. She developed citywide cultural tourism programs including special events, festivals, tour programs and interactive digital marketing campaigns that linked public experiences to key City economic development initiatives. Notably, she was part of the opening team that envisioned, launched, and programmed Chicago's famed, Millennium Park. Her notable awards include: 2022 Travel Weekly Magellan Award for Marketing - Promotions with Purpose"; U.S Travel Association's Destination Council's DESTINY AWARD; Travel & Leisure SMITTY Award; WEBBY AWARD for best Travel/Adventure Video Short Form; and the American Association of Museum's MUSE Award for excellence in technical programming.

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[Annie Christiansen](#)

Sr Director, Engineering Operations  
Salesforce/Mulesoft

Annie (she/her) is a senior programs and operations leader who thrives in chaos and loves making molehills out of mountains. She has over 20 years of experience driving scaled improvements across industries - from clothing and beauty to laptops and software. Annie discovered a passion for developing high performing individuals and teams through her years as a coxswain and coach at Thames Rowing Club in London, England. Originally from Connecticut, Annie holds a BA in English from Wesleyan University and now resides in California with her kids, husband, and cats.

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## [Lisa Flores](#)

CEO and Founder  
Talent Space

Lisa provides the strategic vision for the company and leads business development efforts. She is an active angel investor in growth companies and a serial entrepreneur in real estate. Lisa previously served as the VP of Sales at Metro Information Services providing software development resources to Fortune 500 and venture backed emerging companies. Instrumental in the sale of company to Nasdaq listed firm for 100X return. Post-sale served as Division Director of parent company. Lisa is active in the community supporting non-profits and fundraisers. She was born in San Jose and received a B.A. in Industrial/Organization from San José State University.

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[Eeshita Grover](#)

Director, Marketing  
Cisco

Eeshita has been in leadership and people management roles for 10+ years, at Cisco. She has led teams and initiatives that have impacted large product portfolios. With extensive experience in grooming talent and helping them grow, her strength lies in impressing on individuals the value each of them bring to a team and to the company at large.



[Olivia Guel](#)

Leader, Strategy and Planning Operations  
Commercial Offers and Licensing Experience  
Cisco

Olivia has been at Cisco for nearly 13 years, both as a consultant and full-time employee. Joining directly from San Jose Staté University, Olivia started her Cisco career as a Data Analyst in Services, then moved into another group as a Business Analyst, then evolving into a Program Manager in various organizations, and finally leveraging her prior experience to grow into a leadership role in Business Operations. She has a diverse background in, Analytics, Process Documentation, Communications, and Program Management. Her passions lie in connecting people and processes to create a diverse and inclusive future for all.

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[Sangeeta Gupte](#)

Senior Director, Digital Marketing Strategy  
Position<sup>2</sup>

Sangeeta is a serial entrepreneur with a passion for bringing disruptive medical technologies to market to improve lives. She has a unique combination of a business background combined with medical education and clinical experience. This has resulted in successful strategies for new product adoption and global commercialization. As a part of the founding teams at multiple companies Sangeeta created pioneering medical solutions for improved outcomes. She was instrumental in transforming a concept for the first-ever AI in healthcare into a widely used 'standard of care' for early detection of cancers. Later, she defined a Real-time 3D Stereoscopic technology into a clinically applicable solution for biopsies and was responsible for global adoption. Sangeeta's wide experience spans across many sub-verticals. She has provided commercialization strategies for various at-home testing and risk assessment kits, remote monitoring for seniors, telehealth-as-a-service, CAD AI for medical imaging, 3D mammography, orthopedics, personalized medicine, tumor genetic profiling, immunoassays, cord-blood banking and others. Sangeeta represented Fuji Capital at 'The Angels Fund' for investments in life science start-ups. She has advised CEOs on product evolution, strategy and fund-raising. Sangeeta believes in contributing towards the betterment of society. At an early age, she worked closely with Mother Teresa and volunteered for many years at her orphanage and home for the elderly. Sangeeta expanded her love for creativity by introducing the Art Therapy

program at Stanford Hospital, specifically for long-term and terminal patients.

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[Myra Haubrich](#)

Sr. Engineer Manager  
Salesforce/Mulesoft

Myra has a Computer Science Masters's degree specializing in Computer Algorithms. She enjoys exploring new technologies and applying innovation to improve efficiency and resiliency in any project she involves. Myra worked at startups and large enterprises and spoke at different conferences. She is passionate about technology and a strong advocate for everyone's equal opportunity to learn and develop careers in technology.

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[Jennie Hou](#)

Sr. Engineering Program Manager  
Hewlett-Packard Enterprise

Jennie is a senior engineering program manager at Hewlett Packard Enterprise working on cross-organizational projects. She has experience across many functional areas over her career. She is passionate in promoting employee engagement and STEM. She has a BA in Computer Science and a MBA.

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## [Linda Khachooni](#)

CFO

Privacera

Advising CFO 2Predict, 19Labs

Linda has 30 years experience working for early stage growth companies. Broad spectrum of expertise in organizations structure, finance, accounting, legal, human resources, business strategy, negotiations and operational process organization. Integral member of leadership teams taking new companies from initial stages through successful organizations. Successfully completed over 15 M&A transactions with companies that include eBay, Smith Micro, AT&T and Numera.

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## [Kireeti Kompella](#)

Senior Vice President and Chief Technology Officer (CTO)  
Juniper Networks Engineering Team

Before taking on his current role, Kireeti served as CTO, SDN at Juniper Networks. Previously, Kompella was CTO at Contrail Systems, which was acquired by Juniper in December 2012. Prior to joining Contrail, he was CTO and Chief Architect, Junos at Juniper Networks. Kompella has deep experience in Packet Transport, large-scale MPLS, VPNs, VPLS, and Layer 1 to Layer 3 networking, and has been active in the IETF, as former

chair of the CCAMP Working Group and as author of several Internet Drafts and RFCs (in the CCAMP, IS-IS, L2VPN, MPLS, NVO3, OSPF, and TE WGs). Prior to joining Juniper in 1997, he worked on file systems at NetApp, SGI, and ACSC (acquired by Veritas). At heart, Kompella is still an engineer and a coder, and loves talking to ASIC folks. Kompella received a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering and a Master's degree in computer science from IIT, Kanpur, and a PhD in computer science from University of Southern California, specializing in number theory and cryptography. He holds 46 issued patents.

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### [Alvina Nishimoto](#)

Scrum Master  
Jack Henry & Associates

Alvina Nishimoto spent 34 years at HP in R&D and Marketing developing the HP Materials Management product, database and interoperability solutions, and various new business solutions. She spent 2 years at Symantec Corporation where she was the Engineering Enrichment Leader and then 3 years as the Agile Coach at the City of San Jose. Alvina currently is a Scrum Master at Jack Henry & Associates, a leading provider of banking software. She has a B.S. and an M.S. in Management Science and Engineering with a specialization in computer utilization from Stanford University.



[Jennifer Peneyra](#)

Director, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  
Silicon Valley Bank

Jennifer plays an integral role in building an inclusive workplace culture so employees from all diverse backgrounds and experiences can bring their bold ideas to life and power innovation. She partners with key leaders to integrate a DEI lens throughout enterprise-wide learning experiences, from mitigating bias in the workplace to allyship and inclusive leadership. She also creates spaces for courageous conversations – whether in response to real world events or employee concerns – and enables teams to build empathy and expand perspectives. Jen has over two decades of experience as a diversity and recruitment professional; she previously managed firm-wide diversity talent programs, employee resource groups, branding and communications, and strategic external partnerships at Charles Schwab, and prior to that role, she led recruiting and diversity initiatives for the San Francisco law firm of Farella Braun + Martel LLP. She graduated from U.C. Berkeley with a BA in English and Psychology.

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## Natalie Quan

CFO

California Society of Certified Public Accountants / CalCPA Education Foundation

Natalie is the Chief Financial Officer of the California Society of CPA's and CalCPA Education Foundation, the nation's largest state CPA society. Prior to CalCPA she was the Controller of the San Francisco Ballet Association and a non-profit audit manager in a regional CPA firm. Natalie holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from San José State University, is a Certified Public Accountant, graduate of the Stanford University's Emerging CFO Financial Leadership Program and graduate of the CFO Leadership Council CFO Accelerating Growth Through Leadership Executive Program at MIT. In her spare time, Natalie sits on the Board of the Better Business Bureau of Northern California, is the Treasurer of Circus Center and teaches circus arts.

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## [Rene Shimada Siegel](#)

Partner  
Armanino

After spending a decade entrenched in Silicon Valley tech firms of all sizes, Rene founded and led the marketing and communications consultancy Connex to support industry leaders including Google, Cisco, LinkedIn, Salesforce, Abbott, and others. In February 2021, Connex merged with Armanino, bringing a portfolio of clients and thousands of marketing consultants nationwide. Rene's superpowers include telling stories to impact behavior change, making personal and business connections and empowering others to live fulfilling lives. She advocates for a diverse, inclusive and multigenerational workforce. Rene currently serves on the Armanino Foundation Volunteer Vacation committee. She is also on the Dean's Advisory Board for the Lucas College of Business at her alma mater, San José State University, where she was also a Public Relations adjunct professor for seven years. She is also a member of ASCEND, the largest Pan-Asian non-profit organization for business professionals in North America, and a lifetime member of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC). Rene is a frequent speaker at events including the Public Relations Society of America, International Conference and Watermark Conference for Women.

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## [Olivia Shen Green](#)

Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion  
Western Digital

Olivia and her team spearhead Western Digital's efforts to accelerate the company's business through inclusive culture with equitable practices to engage a global and diverse workforce. Previously, Olivia led DE&I at VMware with an eye to people processes, products and business processes. At Logitech, she was the Head of Diversity, Inclusion and Happiness where she formed and led DE&I globally across categories including mice, keyboards, video collaboration, music, gaming, streaming, podcasting and sports. Prior to pivoting into the field of HR, she led inclusive change in engineering, supply chain, manufacturing, and acquisition integration. She is a leader that thrives at the intersection of data, storytelling and evidence-based solutions. DE&I is a critical business skill, and she taps into academic research, pop culture, military strategy and more to influence and guide leaders as they move forward on their own DE&I journeys. Olivia holds a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and an M.S. in Management Science and Engineering from Stanford University. She enjoys playing video games with her family and enjoys photographing sports and singing along to Broadway musicals.

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[Mansi Shukla](#)

HR Manager  
Celestica

Mansi has 10+ years broad experience in HR within a mix of startups and public enterprises. She is a San José State University Alumna, where she earned her MBA degree in 2012. She has a BS in Electrical Engineering. She loves to travel and has been to more than 40+ countries.

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[Surabhi Subramanya](#)

Senior Software Engineer  
Cisco

Surabhi did her Masters in Computer Science with Specialization in Security at University of Southern California in Los Angeles. Completed 5+ years at Cisco as a Software Engineer. Outside of work she enjoys music, basketball, reading and YouTube!

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[Hung Truong](#)

Chief Engineering Officer  
Yubico

Hung presently leads the world-wide Engineering organization for Yubico – a global authentication leader – backed by renowned Swedish and US investors. He has over 20 years of experience in leading global hardware and software engineering teams, serving among the world’s most prominent multi-national enterprises and communication service providers. Prior to joining Yubico in February 2021, Hung was VP of Products for the Information Security division of Utimaco – a privately held company headquartered in Aachen, Germany. Prior to Utimaco, Hung led the Global R&D organization for the ArcSight SIEM business as its VP of Engineering – the largest business in the Enterprise Security Products division at Hewlett Packard (HP). Hung is a holder of a patent on Remote Wireless Network Management. He received his B.S., M.Sc. in

Engineering from the University of Waterloo and his M.B.A. from the University of Western Ontario, in Canada.

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[Vimala Veerappan](#)

Senior Director, Technical Marketing  
Cisco Systems

Achievement driven professional with over 17 years of experience in Technical Marketing, Product Management, Networking, and Business Operations, Go-to-market strategy worldwide. Loves building high performance teams, thinking outside the box, solving hard problems and putting her best foot forward.

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## [Neelam Vijay](#)

Software Engineering Manager  
Juniper Networks

Neelam is a seasoned engineering leader with 20+ years of experience in several engineering positions. Currently she leads a team as Software Engineering Manager at Juniper Networks. Her Prior roles include - Customer Support, Solutions Test Engineering and Automation Lead. She is a Core member of the Juniper Foundation Committee. Neelam is a Professional Mentor for the Tech Women Program – sponsored by the US Department of State. Neelam is an active member of Juniper/Bay Area Toastmaster club(s), as well as a Board Advisor for RIET (Rajasthan Institute of Engineering and Technology), and an International speaker/member of IITM (Institute of Innovation in Technology & Management), in Delhi, India. Neelam is also a student counselor and speaker at RTU (Rajasthan Technical University). In her spare time, Neelam enjoys dancing, music and hiking.

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## [Micaela Whalen](#)

Business Development Manager  
Intel

Micaela is a native to the Monterey Bay and Los Angeles areas, and is a proud alum of San José State University -- graduating with a B.S. in Corporate Finance in 2016. Her involvement in organizations on campus provided opportunities to create long-lasting connections inside and outside the university -- connections which were key to her obtaining internships throughout college and receiving a full-time job offer at Xilinx. Continuing her career in the tech industry, she now works at Intel Corporation as a Business Development Manager. What keeps her fulfilled outside of work and family is providing mentorship to current and recently-graduated SJSU students -- and she's excited to be back on campus in hopes of helping current college students be confident, own their personal brand, and pursue a fulfilling career.

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[Sandy Yu](#)

Advisor  
AppEQ.ai

Sandy has over 20 years of experience leading customer experience and customer success teams at Oracle, Cisco, PricewaterhouseCoopers and startup companies. A trusted advisor and consultant, Sandy enables business leaders to understand what it takes to transform their organizations to meet the ever-evolving needs of modern customers in the

subscription economy. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Sandy is an avid mentor and is one of the co-founders of Networking with a Purpose, a 100% volunteer-based, skills-building, and networking organization, with over 1,000 members globally. Sandy lives just south of San Francisco, California with her husband and twin daughters. She enjoys traveling, reading and is currently obsessed with both tennis and pickleball.

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### [Tao Zhang](#)

Vice President, Deputy General Counsel of IP and Product  
Juniper Networks

Prior to Juniper, Tao was Associate GC of IP and Technology at Ansys, and senior director of IP strategy at Huawei Device USA, respectively. Before Huawei, she was with Hewlett-Packard for 23 years. She obtained a JD from Concord Law School and a PhD in Physics from Stanford University. Dr. Zhang is a member of the California Bar and a registered patent attorney with the USPTO. She is co-author of the book "Mining Ideas for Diamonds – Comparing China and US IP Practices from Invention Selection to Patent Monetization". She also co-authored "Call for Standardization in Patent Claim Drafting" (Santa Clara HighTech Law Journal, Volume 34, Issue 3, April 2018) and "Making Trademark Decisions Based on Cost Considerations" (WTR, April 2020). Tao was recognized by the IAM Strategy 300 in 2015, 2017 and 2018.