



**WE Local Baltimore
Plenary Panel**

The 2020 Engineer

Friday, February 8, 2019 | 3:15-4:30 p.m.

Moderator: [This can be you!](#)

Plenary Description:

Creating and facilitating the transition to green technologies and processes requires a paradigm shift in how engineers think about and analyze problems, and ultimately design solutions. Strides made in engineering towards achieving a greener and more sustainable world will largely depend on the role of innovation. This plenary panel intends to focus on emerging green technologies and trends related to engineering. Questions around the strategies that companies have used and leveraged to drive green innovation will be addressed throughout the session. Panelists will discuss a number of challenges and opportunities that exist today when guiding innovation towards green and sustainable living.

Panelists:

[Be one \(of three\) Plenary Panelists!](#)

Questions:

1. What are the core competencies needed to excel as a 21st century engineer?
2. With the explosion of information due to a variety of technologies and the rise of areas of discipline, the depth of individual knowledge may increase but there may be a decrease in the breadth of knowledge. How do we ensure that engineers use an interdisciplinary approach when solving increasingly complex problems?
3. What trends in technology may further shape the profession of engineering?
4. The engineering profession's requirements have remained unchanged, despite the ever-expanding technical and professional knowledge and skills. Other professions such as medicine, law, pharmacy, architecture and accounting have all recognized the exploding body of knowledge in our society and responded to these changes by expanding their formal education requirements. The "Raise the Bar for Engineering" initiative advocates for expanding the formal educational requirements beyond a bachelor's degree for engineering. As a leader in engineering, what is your perspective on "Raising the Bar?"
5. From a public policy perspective, what trends do you see that will impact engineering?
6. How do you measure the strides made in diversifying the engineering workforce?
7. Linda Katehi, Chancellor at the University of California in Davis, writes in *Educating the Engineer of 2020* published by the National Academy of Engineering that we: "Must prepare engineers for solving unknown problems and not for addressing assumed scenarios. Therefore, the emphasis should be on teaching to learn rather providing more knowledge. Teaching engineers to think analytically will be more important than helping them memorize algebra theorems." Does the current engineering curriculum at the undergraduate level need to change to meet the new challenges of the next couple of decades?

Deadline to Submit a Moderator or Panelist Nominee/Nomination is Monday, October 15, 2018.



Wo(men) Leadership: Disrupting the Pipeline

Saturday, February 9, 2019 | 2:30-3:30 p.m.

Moderator: This can be you!

Plenary Description:

The era of “check of box” diversity and inclusion efforts solely led by HR is over. Many executives have started to take ownership and drive accountability at all levels of the organization, as well as close the gap between the espoused values of diversity and inclusion (D&I) and actual outcomes—this is an issue of urgency within engineering and the technology workforce.

For younger workers, inclusion is not just about assembling diverse teams but also about connecting team members so that everyone is heard and respected. D&I can no longer be viewed as a training and education initiatives, but needs to also focus on debiasing business processes and holding leaders accountable for inclusive behavior.

Panelists will share their perspectives/ideas on how to improve business processes, leadership development, and organizational culture through the lens of reducing bias and cultivating inclusion for underrepresented groups.

Panelists:

Be one (of three) Plenary Panelists!

Questions:

1. How are you empowering women (and men) to recognize and confront unconscious bias?
2. How can women and/or men engage the next generation of women to be confident and developing leadership roles?
3. What obstacles and barriers have you faced in creating a culture of gender influence, and how have you overcome it?
4. What (internal or external) factors affect women in leadership today?
5. What advice would you give to other senior fe(male) leaders who are pushing forward a change initiative that focuses on increasing diversity and inclusion within their organization? What would you advise others to do, or not to do, when trying to change the culture of their organization to be inclusive?
6. How do you think diversity initiatives can be an effective bridge between the workplace and the marketplace?
7. How can men ensure that women are part of a professional network that leads to advancement within engineering?
8. What advice or resources would you give to men who are mentoring women engineers? Additionally, how do you advise women to be mentors to other women?

Deadline to Submit a Moderator or Panelist Nominee/Nomination is Monday, October 15, 2018.