Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics is (STEM). "Women in STEM" will feature a report on STEM women faculty in Puerto Rico from the U.S. National Science Foundation's ADVANCE Hispanic Women in STEM project as an exemplar of a professional network.

We are interested in hearing about other initiatives for women that exist throughout Latin America and the Caribbean and will examine opportunities to build more connections within the LACCEI community. Suggestions will inform the community about programs that support current and future women STEM professionals. STEM is designed to engage women at all levels (students, postdocs, professors, and professionals), and from all backgrounds and countries, in a conversation on career choices, life/work balance, and the impact of family and traditions on advancement decisions. Women in Engineering Initiative started in 2010 by LACCEI and the Organization of American States (OAS) Engineering for the Americas (EftA), and supports the OAS Ministers of Science and Technology's Vision 20/25 in Science, Technology, and Innovation for the Americas: Hemispheric Cooperation for Competitiveness and Prosperity in a Knowledge Economy and Plan of Action of Panama (Group 2). This Plan of Action proposes to increase the number of female and male graduates in science, technology, engineering and technical education. The Vision 20/25 and Action Plan target the goal for 2025 to increase by at least 50% the number of female and male graduates in STEM.

Activities of Women in STEM

Women in STEM Forum Chairs

Renetta G. Tull, PhD
Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Student Development and Postdoctoral Affairs, UMBC
Director, PROMISE: Maryland’s Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP)
University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC, USA)

Dr. Renetta Tull, a former Assistant Dean, serves as the Associate Vice Provost for Graduate Student Professional Development and the Professoriate (AGEP) at UMBC. She is the Director and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI) of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) PROMISE: Maryland’s Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program. Tull has also served as a liaison for institutional collaboration in the Chancellor’s Office at the Universidad Metropolitana in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Her paper on “Preparing for Engineering and Other STEM Graduate/Post-Graduate Masters and Doctoral Programs” was presented at LACCEI 2012 in Panama.

Tull earned the B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Howard University, and both the M.S. in Electrical Engineering and the Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Purdue. She has also researched speaker recognition technology and rehabilitation engineering prior to coming to UMBC. Tull is Co-PI for the ADVANCE Hispanic Women in STEM project in Puerto Rico, and has co-authored several publications about achievement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Dr. Beatriz Zayas Riveras, PhD
Catedrática Asociada, Escuela de Asuntos Ambientales
Associate Professor, School of Environmental Affairs
Universidad Metropolitana (UMET, USA)

Dr. Beatriz Zayas is Associate Professor and Director of the Chemical, Molecular, and Environmental Toxicology (ChemTox) Program at the Universidad Metropolitana. Her research focuses on the development and biological activities of novel fluorescent compounds with potential applications for cancer treatment or detection.

Dr. Zayas obtained the B.S. in Biology from Universidad de Puerto Rico, and the M.S. in Epidemiology from the Medical College of Georgia. Her areas of interest include xenobiotic metabolism, environmental toxicology, and her passion is in the areas of advancing women’s opportunities for research while balancing life and family.

Dr. Bevlee A. Watford, P.E.
Associate Dean for Academic Affairs.
Founding Director of the Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED) for the College of Engineering, Virginia Tech

Dr. Bevlee A. Watford, P.E. is a Professor of Engineering Education, associate dean for academic affairs, and founding director of the Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED) at Virginia Tech. She leads the College of Engineering’s efforts to increase diversity in engineering, including freshman peer mentoring, summer bridge for incoming freshman, and residential living-learning communities.

OAS EftA Encuentro Chairs/Moderators
Women in STEM initiative

Written by Administrator
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Martha Beltran-Martínez
Specialist
Office of Science, Technology and Innovation
Organization of American States

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Co-Chair of Engineering Education Initiatives, Engineering for the Americas
LACCEI Executive Director