



# National Science Foundation

## Full STEAM Ahead

**WHEN:**

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**March 7-10, 2024**

**WHERE:**

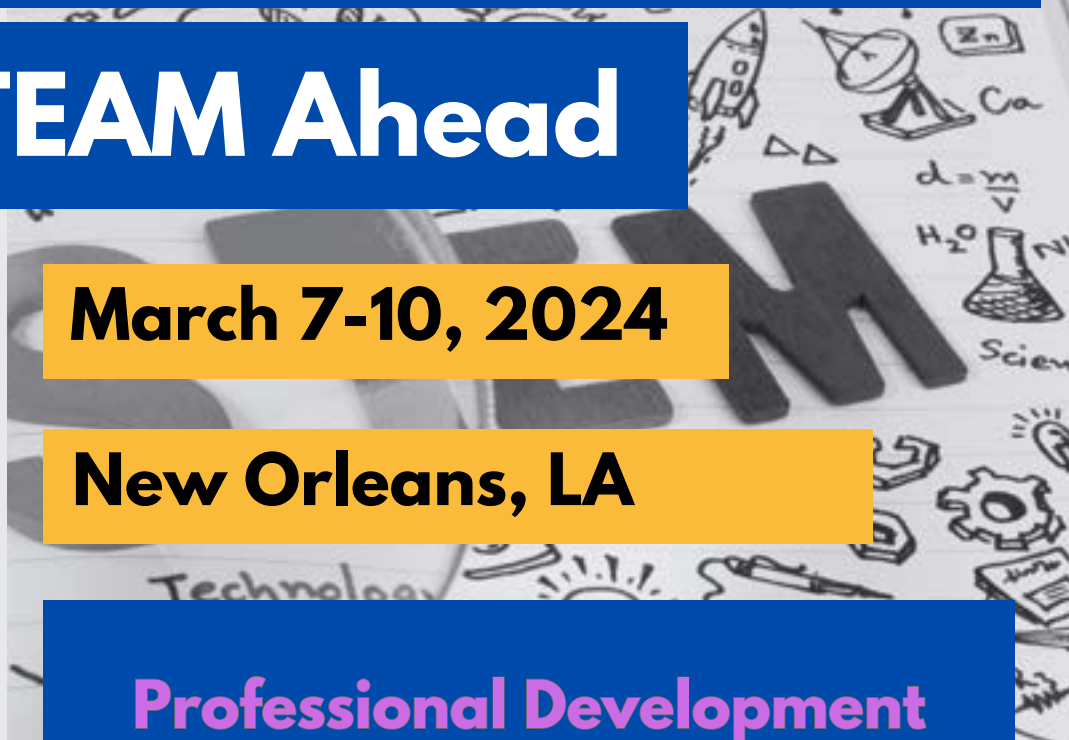
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**New Orleans, LA**

**WHAT:**

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**Professional Development**  
**Mental Health and Wellness**  
**Networking Opportunities**  
**Community Building**



# Administration Team



**Michelle Dovil, Ph.D.**  
Principal Investigator  
Research Scientist and Professor  
Howard University



Olivia McGlaughlin  
Undergraduate Student  
Howard University



Jamara Putney  
Undergraduate Student  
Howard University



**Anjerrika R. Bean, Ph.D.**  
Assistant Director  
Center for Women, Gender and Global Leadership  
Howard University



Celeste Metayer  
Undergraduate Student  
Howard University



Tariq Cranston  
Graduate Researcher  
Howard University



**Keadrick Peters, Ph.D.**  
Director of Multicultural Programs  
Bowie State University



Cheyenne Phillips  
Undergraduate Student  
Howard University



Nok'khanya Edwards  
Undergraduate Student  
Howard University



**Jeanni Simpson, Ph.D., M.Ed., LMSW**  
Licensed Master Social Worker

# Program Overview

## March 7

3:00 - 5:00pm

5:30 - 7:00pm

### Registration and Welcome Reception

Location: St.Charles

Registration

Mardi Gras Welcome Reception

Dress code: Purple, Yellow, and/or Green

## March 8

8:00 - 9:00am

8:00 - 9:00am

9:00 - 10:00am

10:00 - 10:30am

10:30 - 11:30am

11:30 - 12:30pm

12:30pm

12:30 - 2:00pm

2:00 - 3:00pm

3:00 - 4:00pm

4:00 - 4:15pm

4:15 - 5:15pm

5:15 - 5:30pm

5:45pm - 6:00pm

6:00 - 9:00pm

### Professional Development

Location: Balcony L-M

Registration

Breakfast

*Welcome* Michelle Dovil, Ph.D.

*Keynote* Vernon Morris, Ph.D.

*Overview of NSF Grant* Michelle Dovil, Ph.D.

Mentee Presentations

*Panel* Career Paths After Graduate School

Group Photo

Lunch, Rest, and Professional Headshots

*Panel* Negotiating Salaries

*Panel* How to Network: Best Practices

Break

*Panel* Job Interviews and Important Documents

*Graduate Funding and Research Grants*

*Lobby for Networking Dinner Cruise*

*Networking Dinner Cruise*

# Program Overview

## March 9

8:00 - 9:00am

9:15 - 9:30am

9:30 - 9:45am

9:45 - 10:30am

10:30 - 11:00am

11:00 - 12:20pm

12:20pm

12:30 - 2:00pm

2:00 - 3:00pm

3:00 - 4:00pm

4:00 - 4:10pm

4:15 - 5:15pm

5:15 - 5:45pm

5:45 - 6:30pm

## Mental Health and Wellness Day

Location: Balcony L-M

**Breakfast**

**Welcome** Michelle Dovil, Ph.D.

**Mindfulness | Self-Soothing Kit** Jeanni Simpson, Ph.D.

**Keynote Speaker** Kandis Boyd, Ph.D.

**What is Mental Health and Wellness?**

**Movie Screening** Can We Talk?

**Group Photo**

**Lunch, Rest, and Professional Headshots**

**Panel** Am I Enough?

**Panel** Breaking the Silence

**Break**

**Panel** Keep Going Session...Stories of Triumph

**Experiential Mental Health Activities**

**Affirmations and Empowerment Closing**

## March 10

7:30 - 8:30am

9:00 - 9:30am

9:30 - 12:00pm

## Conference Closing

Location: Balcony L-M

**Breakfast**

**Closing Remarks** Michelle Dovil, Ph.D.

**Networking Social**

# Program Overview

LOUISIANA IS  
1 HOUR BEHIND  
EAST COAST TIME

3 PM IN LOUISIANA =

1 PM PDT  
2 PM MDT  
3 PM CDT  
4 PM EDT



**HELP!**



**FOLLOW OUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS AND USE OUR HASHTAGS DURING THE CONFERENCE:**

INSTAGRAM: [FullSteamNSF\\_24](#)

TWITTER: [FullSteamNSF\\_24](#)

HASHTAGS: [#FullSteamNSF24](#)

**Streaming services will be available for certain sessions of the conference. Please check email for more information.**

## **PaddleWheeler Creole Dinner Cruise**

The 880-passenger Paddlewheeler Creole Queen is New Orleans' most luxurious daily excursion riverboat on the Mississippi River. The Creole Queen is a traditional riverboat powered by a 24-ft diameter paddlewheel. She has three private dining rooms, giving her the largest indoor capacity available on excursion vessels in New Orleans.

**Join the WhatsApp group to plan rideshares, make connections, introduce fun activities, and ask questions.**

**The link can be found in your email**

**If you have questions or concerns throughout the duration of the conference please contact:**

**Dr. Anjerrika Bean**

**[Anjerrikab@yahoo.com](mailto:Anjerrikab@yahoo.com)**

# NSF Research Project Mission

## What

This is a research project funded by the National Science Foundation that seeks to improve the career progression and sense of belonging in the geoscience and social sciences through an innovative, hybrid mentoring program.

## Why

Traditionally, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and women are exceedingly underrepresented within the geosciences fields. Despite a growing consensus that the lack of diversity in science presents an inequity requiring action, decades of research, policies, and projects have shown that diversifying science is not as simple as encouraging women and minorities to earn university degrees in STEM (King et al., 2019).

## Who

We seek devoted and enthusiastic professionals in both the geoscience and social sciences:

### Mentors:

- 3-5 years of mentorship experience
- Minimum of 7 years of professional experience in STEAM
- Commitment to mentorship of traditionally underrepresented communities

### Mentees:

- Identify as someone from a traditionally underrepresented background
- Currently a graduate student, Post-Doc, or Early Career Professional in the Geoscience or Social Science fields
- An openness to receive mentorship and constructive feedback for professional development

## How

Participants across the generations of geoscience and social sciences will be immersed in both a virtual 6-month mentoring program (provided at no cost) and 2-3 day in-person conference in New Orleans (airfare, lodging, and meals fully paid by program).



# Land Acknowledgement



We want to start by acknowledging the original inhabitants of this land. The City of New Orleans is a continuation of an indigenous trade hub on the Mississippi River, known for thousands of years as Bulbancha, a Choctaw term meaning “place of many tongues.” Native peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial, and the resilient voices of Native Americans remain an inseparable part of our local culture.

**Citation:**

NOLA ILC Land Acknowledgement and Action Statement.(2023, July 16).

NOLA Information Literacy Collective.

<https://nolaic.wordpress.com/nola-ilc-land-acknowledgement-and-action-statement/>

# NSF Mentors

On behalf of the National Science Foundation, Howard University, and our research team, we would like to acknowledge each mentor who poured into our mentees throughout this 6-month mentoring program. Your hard work is greatly appreciated as we continue to move Full STEAM Ahead regarding increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Geoscience and Social Science fields.

Please find the list of our esteemed mentors below:



**Ambrose Jerald, Jr. Ph.D.**  
**Andrew Oliphant, Ph.D.**  
**Bhawana Upadhyay, Ph.D.**  
**Brenda Soler-Figueroa, Ph.D.**  
**Catherine Fitzpatrick, Ph.D.**  
**Dana-Marie Ramjit, Ph.D.**  
**Da'Vel Johnson, M.S.**  
**Elizabeth Figus, Ph.D.**  
**Grady Dixon, Ph.D.**  
**Kesley Richardson, DPA**  
**Kwame Owusu-Daaku, Ph.D.**  
**Mahta Ansari, Ph.D.**  
**Maria Zubkova, Ph.D.**  
**Mayra Roman-Rivera, Ph.D.**  
**Michael Pretes, Ph.D.**  
**Michelle Dovil, Ph.D.**  
**Morufu Olalekan Raimi, Ph.D.**  
**Muhammad Bashir, Ph.D.**  
**Nancy Brown, Ph.D.**  
**Nicholas Metz, Ph.D.**  
**Olaitan Ibiyemi, Ph.D.**  
**Tracy Friend, CEM, PMP**  
**Vidya Balasubramanyam, Ph.D.**



# NSF MENTEES

On behalf of the National Science Foundation, Howard University, and our research team, we want to acknowledge each mentee who dedicated their time and put in a lot of hard work to reach their goals throughout this 6-month mentoring program. Your commitment to this program is greatly appreciated as we continue to move Full STEAM Ahead regarding increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the Geoscience and Social Science fields.

Please find the list of our notable mentees below:



**Amy Kitchener**  
**Aya Waller-Bey**  
**Badiallo Diani**  
**Berna Oztekin Gunaydin**  
**Bhabesh Hazarika**  
**Brian Boyce**  
**Briana Prado**  
**Chyna Lee**  
**Cielo Sharkus**  
**Dinesh Kumar Nayak**  
**Elijah Catalan**  
**Emma Robertson**  
**Gershom Ejoni**  
**Harman Singh**  
**Katelyn Schockman**  
**Khadija Benn**  
**Kwaku Opoku-Ware**  
**Lauren Prox**  
**Lauren Taylor**  
**Lutfiyah Madyun**  
**Leslie Martinez Roman**  
**Maggie Leon-Corwin**  
**Maria Abapolnikova**  
**Maureen Nso**  
**Mehrnaz Haghdadi**  
**Nilima Islam Luba**  
**Nima Esmaeilzadeh**  
**Osinachi Ajoku**  
**Paula Buchanan**  
**Radhika Agarwal**  
**Rashmi Srivastava**  
**Rebecca Entress**  
**Roni Fraser**  
**Sharon Rotich**  
**Shriya Thakkar**  
**Stephanie Marquez**  
**Tihara Sommers**  
**Tira Beckham**

# Keynote Speakers



Dr. Vernon Morris is a Foundation Professor and the Associate Dean for Knowledge Enterprise and Strategic Outcomes in the New College at Arizona State University. Previously, Dr. Morris was a Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Director of the Atmospheric Sciences Program at Howard University. He was the Principal Investigator and Founding Director of the NOAA Cooperative Science Center in Atmospheric Sciences and Meteorology (NCAS-M). Dr. Morris also founded the HU Graduate Program in Atmospheric Sciences (HUPAS). HUPAS is the first PhD-degree granting Atmospheric Sciences program at any minority-serving institution and is a national leader in the production of minority PhDs in its field. Under his guidance, over 50% of the African American and 30% of the Hispanic American PhDs in Atmospheric Sciences produced from 2006 to 2018 in the United States graduated from this program. 97% of the program's alumni are working in their respective fields across federal agencies, the private sector, and academia.

Dr. Morris has won numerous academic and scientific honors and awards including the inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for Diversity and Inclusion from the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in 2023, the AGU Presidential Citation for Science and Society in 2021, inducted as a Fellow of the African Science Institute in 2019, the NOBCChE Henry Cecil McBay Outstanding Teacher Award (2012), and elected a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society in 2016.



Dr. Kandis Boyd is a trailblazer, an advocate and renowned expert in Portfolio Management, Strategic Leadership, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). Dr. Boyd is the President and CEO of Professor S.T.E.A.M., which focuses on creating pipelines of future STEAM enthusiasts.

She has nearly 30 years of experience leading, teaching, advising and mentoring students and early career enthusiasts in environmental and atmospheric science. She was the first African-American female to receive an undergraduate degree in Meteorology from Iowa State University in 1996. She continued her studies and received a double master's degree in Meteorology and Water Resources in 1998. And in 2007, Dr. Boyd received her doctorate in public administration with a specific concentration in inter-organizational leadership and cultural values from Nova Southeastern University. She has two certifications in Project Management and Transportation, Logistics, and Distribution. Over the course of her career Dr. Boyd has published over 100 articles, 7 peer-reviewed journal articles, 3 books, 30 podcasts, 100 presentations, and has been quoted, interviewed, and featured in over 20 periodicals.

# Panelists and Speakers



**Dr. Ángel F. Adames Corraliza, is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Ángel is a tropical meteorologist whose research focuses on understanding the interactions between water vapor, rainfall, and wind patterns in the tropics, and how these interactions will change in a warming climate. His interest in tropical meteorology stems from watching clouds develop in his hometown San Sebastián, Puerto Rico, and especially after the passage of Hurricane Georges in 1998.**



**Dr. Anjerrika Bean is a native of Beaumont, Texas. As a researcher, she is a Sociologist and Criminologist with a concentration in criminology and inequality. Currently, Dr. Bean is the Assistant Director for the Center for Women, Gender, and Global Leadership at Howard University. She previously worked as the Dr. Ralph Gomes's Post-doctoral fellow at Howard University. She recently rejoined the Montgomery College's campus as an adjunct professor where she teaches sociology classes.**



**Dr. Andrew Oliphant is a physical climatologist who investigates atmospheric interaction with ecosystems. He has been a professor at SF State since 2002, where he teaches classes in physical geography, climatology, meteorology, and field methods, and loves working on research projects with SF State students. His research focusses on applied micrometeorological research questions regarding carbon, water and heat exchanges between the atmosphere and ecosystems. The latter includes mountain meadows, deciduous forests, arid and polar environments, agro-ecosystems and urban environments. He is a professor and the inaugural director of the School of the Environment at San Francisco State University. There he is helping to build a new School, which aims to reach across disciplines to understand the biophysical processes, the structures of political and economic power, and the social and cultural forces that shape our environment, and to pursue innovative and equitable solutions to wide-ranging environmental challenges.**

# Panelists and Speakers



**Dr. Brenda María Soler-Figueroa is a Research Scientist in the Marine Invasions Research Laboratory at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. She co-leads the Ballast Water Research Group and studies the plankton assemblages associated with ballast water carried by ships to bays and ports worldwide. She completed a Bachelor's degree in Coastal Marine Biology at the University of Puerto Rico, Humacao, and a Master's and Ph.D. in Biological Oceanography at the Mayagüez campus. During her graduate studies, she investigated the population dynamics of dinoflagellates in the unique bioluminescent systems of Puerto Rico and their responses to environmental cues. She is one of the co-chairs of the Marine Invasions Research Laboratory Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) Inaugural committee, an executive committee member of the SERC Women in Science group, and an advisory board member for the Woman of Color in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology.**



**Dr. Christin Salley is a Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellow at the Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS), affiliated with the Departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering & Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Michigan. Her research focuses on developing equitable infrastructure systems and services within urban environments to enhance community resilience. Specifically, her work centers on understanding societal systems and addressing ethical considerations, particularly concerning vulnerable populations, through investigations on disaster and crisis management. Employing a transdisciplinary and sociotechnical approach, she integrates data science methods for information processing and associated analyses.**

# Panelists and Speakers



Da'Vel Johnson is a meteorologist with the National Weather Service. His love of science started early on going outdoors fishing with his father and exploring the environment with his mother at the Audubon Nature Center in New Orleans East. Weather and science had always been a part of his life, but after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 and the devastation it caused the city, he felt a strong desire to “help people with science” to be ready for the next disaster. After earning his master’s degree in meteorology in 2015 at Florida Tech and working at Weather Forecast Offices in Florida, Louisiana, Alabama, and New York, he joined the FEMA’s National Incident Management Assistance Team (NIMAT) Blue in late August 2021 as the new National Weather Service (NWS) Liaison Officer (LNO). As the NWS LNO, his primary role is to provide decision support for FEMA Operations and serve as the meteorological and hydrologic expert for the team. He works with NWS Regional and National Operation Centers to provide situational awareness of changing weather impacts to the operational area and/or mission objectives and is the subject matter expert on all NWS hazards and products. In his spare time he enjoys photography, hiking with his wife Cynthia, and exploring the DC area.



Dr. Grady Dixon is a meteorologist and climatologist who has published nearly 50 research articles on severe-weather climatology, weather effects on human health, and a variety of topics involving human-weather interactions. He has mentored 48 graduate students and served on committees for 41 more. For the past 7 years, much of his professional identity and scholarship (10 publications and conference presentations) have been related to improving the diversity of his discipline and his institution. He is in his 10th year at Fort Hays State University where he served as chair of the Department of Geosciences for 4 years before his current role as dean. Previously, he served 9 years as a professor of meteorology at Mississippi State University. He earned his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Mississippi State University, University of Georgia, and Arizona State University, respectively.



Dr. Jeanni Simpson, M.Ed., LMSW, is a native of Racine, WI, is a woman of purpose and defender of the disenfranchised. She has worked with some of the most vulnerable populations locally and internationally. She recognizes the importance of civic engagement as a tool to impact change. She is a champion of education, having earned a bachelors in Communication, two masters in education and social work, and doctorate in social work. Currently, she is a practicing Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) in Maryland and New York, helping individuals build self-confidence, develop autonomy, communicate effectively, develop emotional resilience, repair irrational thinking, increase interpersonal effectiveness and replace maladaptive behaviors with healthy behaviors.

# Panelists and Speakers



Dr. Keadrick Peters is a proud native of Prince George's County, Maryland. As a researcher Dr. Peters is a Sociologist with a concentration in criminology and social inequality. Currently, Dr. Peters serves as a diversity, equity, and inclusion champion at Bowie State University. Specifically, he is the Director of the LGBTQIA Resource Center and University Coordinator for the Office of Multicultural Programs and Civic Engagement. In addition to serving as a key Bowie State University student affairs practitioner, Dr. Peters is privileged to serve as an adjunct faculty for the department of behavioral sciences and human services at Bowe State University. He especially enjoys teaching race relations, introduction to sociology, research methodology, and collective behavior.



Dr. Kesley Richardson is a U.S. Virgin Islands Native, scholar, public speaker, researcher, and practitioner in Emergency Management. He is an Adjunct professor at Loyola University in Chicago, Texas Southern University, and Nova Southeastern University. He is part of organizations such as the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM), Black Emergency Managers Association (BEMA), Florida Public Health Association (FPHA), and Florida Emergency Preparedness Association (FEPA). He hopes to network with like-minded professionals to make an actionable change and cultivate action-based research. With his diverse background, Dr. Richardson hopes to leverage his achievements and passions to support his goal of cultivating a more diverse and accessible field of Emergency Management.



Dr. Lauren Kaye Belton, is a dedicated psychologist based in Columbus, OH, with a passion for serving her community. Born and raised in South Florida, Lauren is a proud first-generation American with immigrant parents from Jamaica. Holding a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Howard University, earned in 2021, Lauren has established herself as a trusted professional in the field. Her commitment to understanding and addressing mental health concerns is evident in her academic achievements and her ongoing work. Currently, Lauren serves as a valued member of a Behavioral Health Interdisciplinary Program team at the Veterans Affairs in Columbus, OH.

# Panelists and Speakers



Dr. Mayra Oyola research interests are focused on satellite and space-borne remote sensing, specifically in the areas of aerosol and cloud radiative effects, severe weather, air quality, and disaster/hazard risk reduction. My primary interest is to improve space-borne observation capabilities and how these datasets are used in atmospheric modeling for severe weather and air quality applications. I am currently a member of the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and I previously worked at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory where I specialized in satellite remote sensing retrievals and their applications on severe weather, climate monitoring, and disaster risk reduction. I also served as the Deputy Director of the International GNSS Service, managing a federation of over 250 international organizations advocating for GNSS satellite and ground-based systems research and applications.



Dr. Michelle Dovil is currently a research scientist and professor at Howard University in the Department of Sociology and Criminology. Born and raised in Miami, Florida, she has always had an interest in both the natural and social sciences. She received her B.A. in Sociology, with a minor in Women's Studies from the University of Florida. Dr. Dovil later moved to Washington, DC, where she received her M.A. and a Ph.D. in Sociology from Howard University. Dr. Dovil's personal research interests are in Environmental Justice, Disasters, and Climate Change. She has worked on several projects both domestically and internationally these projects have been centered on investigating the impact of climate change on coastal communities; inequalities of disasters; improving risk communication for vulnerable populations; examining the protective action and evacuation responses of disaster victims; as well as many other environmental inequality issues. Dr. Dovil has received research awards from both the Department of Homeland Security and the National Science Foundation.



Dr. Michael Pretes is Professor and Chair of the Department of Geoscience at the University of North Alabama. A native of San Francisco, he holds a B.A. from the University of California at Berkeley, an M.A. and Graduate Certificate in African Studies from Northwestern University, and a Ph.D. from the Australian National University. He is the chair of the Latina/o/e American Student Travel Scholarship Selection Committee of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers and is on the Selection Committee for the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education Student Dissertation Scholarship. He has previously taught at universities in Canada, Finland, Australia, Hawai'i, New Mexico, Wyoming, Missouri, and California. His research and teaching focus on economic development of remote regions, tourism, geopolitics, and national parks with regional foci in Western North America, Australia and the Pacific, Southern Africa, and Polar Regions.

# Panelists and Speakers



**Dr. Muhammad Bashir is a Researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has about 12 years of teaching and research experience. His academic journey has seen him fulfill roles at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign as a Postdoc, at COMSATS University Lahore, Pakistan as an Assistant Professor, and at GC University Lahore, Pakistan as a Research Officer. He has completed his PhD and M.Phil in Space Plasma Physics, published more than 30 publications in well-reputed journals, and mentored several undergraduate and graduate students in space physics. He is currently leading a Geospace Environmental Modelling Encourage & Elevate (GEMEE) mentoring program and also served as a Mentor for the American Geophysical Union Mentoring program for the last three years.**



**Mussie Kebede, M.S. is a Meteorologist/Forecaster with the National Weather Service's Weather Prediction Center in College Park, Maryland. He has over 5 years of experience in short and medium range forecasting spanning multiple areas including but not limited to rainfall hazards, winter weather, quantitative precipitation forecasting (QPF) and frontal/pressure analysis. Mussie holds a Masters of Science degree from Howard University and a Bachelors of Science from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). He is a part of multiple working groups at WPC and is the SCOUT (Student Career Onsite Training) team lead for the center. His research/professional interests include GIS and mentorship.**



**Dr. Nick Metz is a Professor of Geoscience and the Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (HWS). He has been at HWS for 13 years and is a meteorologist by training. He teaches a variety of classes on high-impact weather. He runs an NSF-supported research group that includes an REU site. His research focuses on weather phenomena such as atmospheric rivers and lake-effect snow. In his role as Associate Provost, he oversees the entire HWS summer research program where about 100 students work with 40 faculty members each year. Further, he manages the STEM-Scholars, an NSF-supported LSAMP group that aids underrepresented students in their journey through undergraduate science disciplines.**



# Safety & Community Guidelines



We are very excited to see you at the NSF Full STEAM Ahead Conference! By attending, you agree to follow any COVID-related protocols mandated by local authorities at the time of the event. We strongly recommend that attendees be vaccinated for COVID-19 in advance and wear masks if needed while in the meeting spaces. Masks will be provided. We will adapt our COVID precautions as needed based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and requirements of federal, state, and local regulations.

**Additional precautions to take to protect against the transmission of COVID-19:**

- **Negative COVID-19 PCR or Rapid test administered within 72 hours prior to the start of the event**
- **Frequent hand washing and sanitizing**
- **Social distancing to maintain six feet of distance from other attendees when possible if you find yourself ill or at risk of exposure.**
- **We encourage each attendee to carefully assess their symptoms each morning before coming to the meeting space. If you are sick and/or have symptoms of illness or COVID, we ask that you refrain from coming to Annual Meeting events. If you test positive for COVID while onsite at the event, please stay in your hotel room and contact your healthcare provider. Please also review and follow the CDC's Self-Isolation Instructions.**
- **After the events, we recommend you monitor your symptoms in the coming days. If you develop symptoms of illness, including COVID-19, please contact your healthcare provider. Also, following CDC guidance.**
- **At this time, we will not require proof of vaccination or a negative test to attend the conference. The above guidelines are strongly recommended for the health and safety of all attendees. By registering and attending an event/meeting you acknowledge that there is an unknown risk of personal injury, illness, or damage to one's personal property during the event.**

# Safety & Community Guidelines



## Community Conference Guidelines

- **Respect**
  - Be nice and understanding.
  - It's good to acknowledge your colleague's insights as well as those of previous contributors before you present your views.
  - Don't be incredulous, roll your eyes, make faces, laugh at participants, or start distracting side conversations (e.g., orally or via text).
  - Phone calls, texting, and email during meetings are discouraged and should be kept to a minimum.
- **Community**
  - Set and keep a professional and positive tone.
  - While creative and respectful discourse is encouraged, leave open the possibility of compromise.
  - Remember that academia isn't a zero-sum game. Trust in your community that your voice will be heard.
- **Value Others**
  - All questions are welcomed and all perspectives are valued
  - Don't dominate the discussion. Be mindful of others and try not to let your question (or your answer) run on.
  - Meeting leaders should attempt to balance discussion between participants, prioritizing people who haven't spoken before, and keeping in mind the likelihood of various explicit and/or implicit biases.

## New Orleans Safety Guidelines

- Be aware of your surroundings, always.
- Keep your valuables with you in a secure place, such as a cross-body bag or inside pockets.
- Don't get inebriated to the point where you can't make sound decisions.
- Learn about the layout of the neighborhood and area you plan on visiting ahead of time. Don't wander around without an idea of where you're going.
- Be especially vigilant in crowded places such as public transport and nightlife areas.
- If you feel unsafe at any point, trust your instincts. Move away from the situation as quickly and safely as possible.

**When heading out, plan to stick with your group. Try to avoid wandering alone!**

# Acknowledgement

thank  
YOU!



We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all who helped make this conference a success. We have much pleasure in thanking: The National Science Foundation, Howard University, Our Research Team, Our Program Manager, Mentors, Mentees, Panelists, Administration Team, and The New Orleans Marriott Hotel Team.

THANK  
YOU