S. K. Ramesh, Ph.D.

S. K. Ramesh is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at California State University, Northridge, and Director and Lead Principal Investigator of the nationally acclaimed AIMS[2] (www.ecs.csun.edu/aims2) program supported by the US Department of Education. This collaborative program involves multiple community colleges and CSUN to mentor, support and enhance the graduation of underrepresented minorities in engineering and computer science and was supported with a five year $ 5.5 Million grant from the US Department of Education in 2011 and a sequel five year grant of $ 6 Million in 2016. It has been recognized by Excelencia in Education and as a Bright Spot in Hispanic Education by the White House Initiative for Educational Excellence for Hispanics. Dr. Ramesh served as the Dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University, Northridge from 2006 - 2017.

At CSUN student enrollment in the college more than doubled during his tenure from about 2,000 to over 4,800 today. A majority of the undergraduate students are first generation students and underrepresented minorities. Dr. Ramesh established programs to improve student retention through early intervention and culturally sensitive pedagogies in the classroom such as the application of music in teaching structured programming – a multi-disciplinary grant funded effort involving faculty and students from Music, Education, and Computer Science. In 2014 Ramesh was invited by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to host one of the four national White House STEM workshops at CSU Northridge to broaden participation of minorities in the STEM disciplines, remove barriers, and improve student graduation rates- especially in engineering and computer science. At CSUN he has developed innovative programs such as Tech Fest and the annual Senior Design Project Showcase to strengthen connections with industry and helped students explore their career options while encouraging academic excellence. Dr. Ramesh was elevated to the grade of Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in 2015 for his contributions to entrepreneurship in engineering education. IEEE is the world's largest professional technical society with over 400,000 members worldwide. He has served the IEEE in several leadership roles including most recently as the 2016-17 Vice President of Educational Activities, and 2016 President of IEEE-HKN (the Electrical Engineering Honor Society). He has extensive experience in program accreditation as a program evaluator (PEV) and also represents the IEEE on the ABET Board of Delegates. ABET accredits approximately 3,800 programs worldwide in engineering, technology, computing, and applied sciences.

As dean, Dr. Ramesh led the effort to establish an annual strategic planning process for his college; developed and implemented a budget model to foster accountability; created unique interdisciplinary programs including the Master's degree in Assistive Technology Engineering; worked on the Strategic Planning Council of the system wide CSUPERB program (California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology) to engage students and faculty in interdisciplinary research; and collaborated with colleagues in the College of Education on several ongoing STEM initiatives to address challenges and opportunities in K-16. During his tenure as dean, the number of research proposals generated in the college grew substantially, resulting in approximately $ 2 Million in annual awards since 2011. He has hired a diverse group of over 35 faculty, including women and underrepresented minorities in his college. Dr. Ramesh has helped to raise approximately $9 million in philanthropic gifts and contributions to the college during his tenure as dean.

Dr. Ramesh's collaborations with decanal colleagues at CSUN has resulted in several successful projects; and he has partnered with units outside of Academic Affairs to support campus-wide initiatives including the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) Jobs Defense Council in 2014, Alumni Association Cyber Security Event in 2015, a Volunteer Leadership Summit in 2011, and Legislative Advocacy Training in 2011. He has established MOU's and partnerships with universities in four countries with foci on assistive technology, engineering, entrepreneurship, and innovation. He led the steering committee in 2011 to establish the LA Clean Tech Incubator Initiative at CSUN as an initiative from the Mayor's office.

Dr. Ramesh's research interests span the areas of high speed optical communication systems, devices and electronic circuit design. He has several refereed publications and research reports to his credit in these areas. Prior to joining CSUN he chaired the department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at California State University, Sacramento (1994-2006), where he was also Professor since 1992. Dr. Ramesh received the Ph.D. in 1986 in Molecular Science with a major in Electrical Engineering from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where he also received his M.S. degree in 1983.