

Peggy Nelson



Peggy Nelson served as vice president of engineering and global product development at Northrop Grumman Corporation for its Aerospace Systems sector from March 2013 until her retirement in summer 2015. In this role, Ms. Nelson led a sector wide effort with a workforce of over 10,000 employees to deliver more reliable, sustainable and affordable products for Northrop Grumman customers. She rose to the position from her role as vice president and program manager of the company's advanced mission programs business area. Previously, she was the lead executive for mission assurance, quality systems, engineering capabilities and university alliances for Northrop Grumman's former Space Technology sector; vice president and Prometheus 1 project manager with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory; and director for the systems development organization in Northrop Grumman's former Mission Systems sector. Ms. Nelson earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a master's degree in electrical engineering from California State University, Northridge. She also completed the Executive School of Management program at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Peggy cares deeply about higher education and has been a champion in promoting equity and diversity in the workforce. Her passion and commitment to attract women and underrepresented minorities to our disciplines is unparalleled. She believes very strongly in strengthening the pathways to engineering in K-12 and at the University and has been a hands-on volunteer committing her time and support to programs such as WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) to mentor young women and encourage them to pursue/persist with their engineering studies. She serves on the College Industry Advisory Board where she has taken a leadership role on several committees including the Industry Partnerships Committee, and the Development and Alumni Relations Committee in particular. She has been recognized with a 2014 Volunteer Service Award from CSUN and was inducted as a Professional Member of IEEE-HKN (the Electrical Engineering Honor Society) by the Lambda Beta Chapter at CSUN in 2016.

Marilee Wheaton



Marilee Wheaton is currently a Systems Engineering Fellow at The Aerospace Corporation. Previous positions include Executive Director of the Aerospace Institute and General Manager of the Systems Engineering Division and the Computer Systems Division. She is a long time member of the College Industry Advisory Board and has served in leadership roles on several IAB committees. She is a Fellow in three technical societies, Society of Women Engineers, the International Council for Systems Engineering (INCOSE) and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA), and a Senior Member of IEEE. A Fellow is the highest member grade and members are nominated and selected through a very rigorous peer process.

Marilee attended CSUN from 1978-1982 and holds a Master of Science Degree in Systems Engineering from the University of Southern California (USC). She served as the SWE Chapter President when she was going to school at CSUN and subsequently served as the President of the SWE Los Angeles Chapter. In addition, Marilee is a graduate of the UCLA Executive Program in Management, an adjunct associate professor in the Systems Architecting and Engineering Program at USC, and has served on the Oviatt Library's WISE Board since 2010. She has been recognized with a 2016 Volunteer Service Award from CSUN.

Harjit Dhillon



Harjit is currently serving in a hybrid role as Technical Program Manager/Senior Engineering recruiter for Raytheon Space and Airborne Solutions (SAS) in El Segundo, CA. She has over 8 years of experience as a Senior Engineering recruiter for the Defense, Aerospace, Biomedical and Biotech industries.

This was preceded by a 20+ year career as a Senior Research and Development Engineer working for Hewlett-Packard Company; projects included Fibre Channel Mass Storage Driver Development, Storage Network Solution, and serving as Program Manager for a Technical Consulting organization. Harjit earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical/Electronic Engineering from CSU, Sacramento.

Felix Rabinovich



Felix Rabinovich, earned a degree in computer science in his native Latvia and came to the United States 25 years ago, began his career as a software developer, then expanded into IS management and business consulting. He has worked in fields ranging from biotech to financial services, from the insurance industry to retail, from aerospace to healthcare to public utilities, for companies like Deloitte & Touche, Andersen Consulting, Wellpoint, and Amgen. Currently, as divisional vice president of ATIMS, he oversees a company that produces jail management software for sheriffs' departments around the country. And in that capacity, he has spent a lot of time at client facilities (i.e., jails) 😊

For eight years, he has also been sharing his expertise with CECS as a member of the Industry Advisory Board. His involvement was a direct outgrowth of the college's Honors Coop program, which places highly qualified students in year-long internships at local companies. Felix currently serves as the co-chair of the IAB and also teaches in the college's Computer Information Technology program. He is being recognized in November with a 2017 Volunteer Service Award from CSUN.