

IEEE Computer Society / Students @ SC

Speed Mentoring Event

Wednesday, **15 November 2023** | **12–1:30 PM**
Colorado Convention Center Room 705-707-709

Mentor Panelists



Dr. Almadena Chtchelkanova is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation, where she has responsibilities in the areas of high performance computing, foundations of emerging technologies, CISE research, and cyberinfrastructure for scientific innovation. She has a master's in computer sciences from the University of Texas at Austin and a PhD in physics and applied mathematics from Moscow Lomonosov State University in Russia. Before joining NSF, she worked for Strategic Analysis, Inc. as a Senior Scientist providing technical support to DARPA, and at the US Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC, where she developed portable, scalable, parallel adaptive mesh-generation algorithms for computational fluid dynamics, weather forecast, combustion, and contaminant transport.



Dr. Israt Nisa is an Applied Scientist at AWS AI, specializing in the development of cutting-edge solutions for scalable and distributed Graph Neural Networks on heterogeneous architectures. She earned her Ph.D. in Computer Science & Engineering from the Ohio State University, with a specialization in high-performance computing for sparse kernels on GPUs. Dr. Nisa is also a distinguished researcher, with a track record of publishing her work in top-tier conferences such as SC, KDD, and PPOPP.



Esthela Gallardo is a Principal HPC Cloud Solution Architect at Microsoft, where she helps deploy various workloads in Azure. She has a BA and an MS in Computer Science from the University of Texas at El Paso. While pursuing her degrees, Esthela undertook internships at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the Texas Advanced Computing Center, where she honed her skills in developing MPI-based applications and software profiling. She then worked at ExxonMobil as an HPC Systems Engineer, contributing to the design, deployment, and maintenance of large-scale computing systems before moving to an HPC Software Engineer role, where she helped enhance proprietary software for seismic processing to leverage NVIDIA GPUs.



Jim Bonfils is a Principal Storage Specialist with IBM Federal with more than 30 years of experience as an IT and data center specialist and local community leader. His previous employers include Western Digital Technology, Hewlett Packard Enterprise, SanDisk Enterprise Solutions, Cisco Systems, and Radware. Jim is a past member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors; founding board member and past treasurer of Loudoun Youth, Inc.; and one of two Loudoun County representatives on NOVA Parks. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Dayton and is a member of IEEE and the Northern Virginia Technology Council, among other professional groups.



Kenneth O'Brien is a senior member of technical staff at AMD Research and Advanced Development. He graduated in 2019 from University College Dublin, Ireland, with a PhD in computer science focused on the topic of energy-efficient high performance heterogeneous computing. He previously worked in the areas of reduced precision machine learning, bioinformatics, and performance modeling on reconfigurable platforms. O'Brien is currently researching distributed computing solutions for reconfigurable platforms.



Hannah Ross is a member of the Application Performance group at the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC). Her work focuses on optimizing the Energy Exascale Earth System Model (E3SM) as a part of the NERSC Exascale Science Applications Program (NESAP). She is currently working on profiling the cloud and turbulence module in the Simple Cloud-Resolving E3SM Atmosphere Model, which is being developed to target a 3 km resolution to better resolve cloud physics. Hannah has a PhD from the University of Sussex (UK).



Yuan Zhang is a senior HPC system engineer at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus Ohio. She has eighteen years of experience in HPC, working on different roles from system administration, application development, to technical support. Yuan enjoys helping researchers get their work done efficiently on HPC. In her spare time, Yuan likes to read, write and play board games with her family.



Emily Scherbring is a Talent Acquisition Partner at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Previously she was Assistant Director of Human Resources at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications where she managed the human resources division and advised on strategic human management, compensation, recruitment, and retention. She has a Master's degree in Human Resources Development and e-Learning from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.



Scott B. Baden is Professor Emeritus of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of California, San Diego, where he was a founding member of both the Computational Science, Mathematics, and Engineering program (CSME) and the Bioinformatics program. He earned a PhD in Computer Science from the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Baden's research is in high performance and parallel computation and focuses on programming abstractions, domain-specific translation, performance programming, adaptive and data centric applications, and algorithm design. He is a Senior Member of IEEE. Dr Baden is active in International Education and an avid photographer.