On Friday, March 18, 2022, the Lucas College of Business will host the 5th Annual Women in Leadership League Conference. This conference brings together top Silicon Valley leaders, alumni, and students from all disciplines. The day is a mix of a keynote speaker panel discussion and breakout group discussions, providing participants with inspirational experiences as well as practical advice and strategies from successful leaders. Hear about career and life journeys and personal perspectives on leadership. There will be many opportunities to ask questions and for informal conversations.

SJSU Lucas College of Business would like to thank the generous support of our sponsors.

GOLD LEVEL:

[Juniper Networks]

[Lockheed Martin]
Agenda

Part A

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Keynote Speaker Panel of influential Silicon Valley leaders (zoom webinar). View the recording of the webinar here.

- Ayesha Barenblat, Founder and CEO, Remake.World
- Maria E. Hartin-Swart, Contracts Director, Lockheed Martin Space
- Laura Quintana, VP & General Manager, Cisco Networking Academy, Cisco Systems, Inc.
- Kyra Whitten, Vice President, Corporate Marketing, Communications, and Sustainability, Flex

Moderated by Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programs, Meg Virick, Ph.D.

Part B

10:30 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. - Session 1
11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Session 2

Networking with a Purpose: Themed discussions with Industry Mentors from top Silicon Valley Companies (zoom breakout rooms.)

Participating organizations include Salesforce, PremierOne Credit Union, Armanino, MetLife, Cisco, Amazon and more!

Register Here

For questions please contact: womeninleadership@sjsu.edu

Connect with us online - #sjsuwill

Facebook - Twitter - Instagram
Ayesha Barenblat is a social entrepreneur with a passion for building sustainable supply chains that respect people and our planet. With over 15 years of leadership to promote social justice and sustainability within the fashion industry, she founded Remake to mobilize citizens to demand a more just, transparent, and accountable fashion industry. Remake’s free educational resources, advocacy campaigns, and sustainable brands directory are focused on making fashion a force for good.

Ayesha has worked across the public, private, and civil society sectors to promote the rights and dignity of the women who make our clothes. Prior to founding Remake, she led brand engagement at Better Work, a World Bank and United Nations partnership, to ensure safe and decent working conditions in garment factories around the world. Prior to this, she ran the fashion vertical at BSR, providing strategic advice to brands including Levi Strauss and Company, Marks and Spencer, Nike, and the Gucci Group on the design and integration of sustainability into business. She has a master’s degree in public policy from the University of California, Berkeley.

She counts both Karachi and San Francisco as her homes, and she is happiest when spending time with the women who bring our fashion to life and amplifying the stories of fashion’s most essential workers.
Maria E. Hartin-Swart is the Contracts Director at Lockheed Martin Space with specific responsibilities supporting Special Programs (SP) Line of Business and responsible for ~$2 billion annually. She provides executive leadership and guidance to senior staff on contracts and business management complexities, strategies for proactive contracting support to program teams, drives the resolution of business issues with key customers, develops and executes training programs, process improvements, and staff development within the SP teams.

Prior to coming to Lockheed Martin, Maria worked in the legal industry for 12 years supporting various civil litigations, construction, intellectual property and tort law. Maria’s experiences at Lockheed Martin over the past 17 years range from Program Management, Global Supply Chain Management, Estimating and currently as Director of Contracts with Lockheed Martin Space in Sunnyvale, CA.

Maria is a native Californian from the San Francisco Bay Area. She married her high school sweetheart and is a mom of two, which keep her busy and on the go. She holds advance degrees from San Francisco State University and California State University of Hayward. Maria is a certified Control Account Manager, a Six Sigma Green Belt, and a graduate of the LM Executive Development and Growth Enhancement (EDGE) program.

Maria is the Corporate Co-Chair of Hispanic Organization for Leadership & Awareness (HOLA) BRG, and an advocate in supporting key STEM initiatives within Space. In this
role, Maria works to lead and coordinate HOLA initiatives and objectives in support of Hispanics and Latinx throughout the corporation. Throughout her career at Lockheed Martin, Maria has been intimately involved with promoting Hispanic cultural heritage, STEM in public schools and community volunteerism in Sunnyvale, Denver, Valley Forge, and Florida Cape locations. As a result, Maria was the 2020 Award recipient of the YWCA’s Tribute to Women of Silicon Valley and the 2020 National Award recipient of Great Minds in Stem (GMiS) Luminary Honoree.

Laura Quintana
VP & General Manager
Cisco Networking Academy, Cisco Systems, Inc.

Laura Quintana joined Cisco in 1999 and is currently Vice President of Corporate Affairs and General Manager of Networking Academy, Cisco’s largest and longest-running Corporate Social Responsibility program. She leads a global organization and has grown the Networking Academy to reach more than 3 million students annually (15.1 million since inception) in 180 countries with an annual in-kind contribution valued at over $367 million USD.

Laura and her team drive partnerships with governments, academic institutions, and nonprofits to prepare students to participate in today’s digital workforce and to connect them to career opportunities. She and her team are further expanding Networking Academy’s reach with SkillsforAll.com, a mobile first, self-paced, and gamified experience available direct to learner and via academies. Within the first six months of launching, more than 230,000 learners have joined Skills for All. Through Laura’s
leadership, Networking Academy has become a critical part of country digital readiness, working with ministries of education around the world to further national digital agendas and develop the human capital necessary to support country transformation.

Laura holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Industrial Engineering from Stanford University. She is a co-executive sponsor of Conexión, Cisco’s Latinx employee resource organization. She serves as a member of the SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc. Board of Directors, the Economic and Workforce Development Advisory Committee for California’s Community College Chancellor’s Office, and the Love Never Fails Advisory Board. She was recognized by the Hispanic IT Executive Council (HITEC) as one of the top 100 most influential and notable Hispanic Professionals in the Information Technology Industry (2016-2017, 2017-2018, and 2021-2022). She was recognized by Latino Leaders Magazine as one of the 100 most influential Latinas in 2021. She is fluent in Spanish and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband and their three children.

Kyra Whitten,
Vice President, Corporate Marketing, Communications, and Sustainability
Flex

Kyra Whitten is the Vice President of Corporate Marketing, Communications, and Sustainability at Flex, a $24 billion advanced manufacturer serving a wide range of industries. Kyra leads Flex’s corporate marketing, internal and external communications, sustainability program office and the Flex Foundation. In addition to leading the company’s marketing and communications functions, she is responsible for architecting the company’s sustainability strategy in partnership with various functional owners to balance the needs of Flex stakeholders.
Prior to Flex, Kyra was Vice President, Corporate Communications, at Lam Research. Earlier in her career, she held several senior marketing and communications roles at Xilinx, KLA, Trimble, and Applied Materials. Kyra began her career at IBM as part of its Silicon Valley sales and marketing organization.

Kyra was recognized as a Sustainability Hero of the Year for 2021 by the Business Intelligence Group. She serves on the board of directors for the Silicon Valley Leadership Group Foundation. The Silicon Valley Business Journal has recognized Kyra as one of the 100 Most Influential Women in Business. Kyra is a member of the Page Society and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in international business from San Jose State University.
Usha Andra
Sr. Product Marketing Manager
Cisco

Usha is an experienced product marketer with Cisco’s cloud networking team focused on hybrid cloud and cloud-native innovations around network automation and operations platforms including insights, orchestration as well as AR/PR initiatives. Prior to this role, she was responsible for developing gold-standard global thought leadership initiatives with the Cisco Service Provider marketing team focusing on efforts such as the Cisco Annual Internet Report and Cisco Visual Networking Index (VNI) — the company’s efforts to forecast and analyze the growth and use of the Internet, IP networks and cloud networks worldwide. Usha has been with the company for 16 years. She started her career with Cisco’s Strategic Marketing Organization focusing on identifying growth opportunities for Enterprise and Consumer segments. She has earned an M.B.A. from San Jose State University and has a BSEE from Bangalore University. Usha has served as an adjunct faculty member at the College of Business at SJSU and is also the community outreach co-lead for the Women of Cisco, San Jose.
Prianna Ahsan
Software Architect
Salesforce

Prianna is a Software Architect at Salesforce, where she collaborates across organizations to design scalable distributed infrastructure used to power SaaS applications. Previously, she worked on Oracle Kubernetes Engine for Oracle Cloud Infrastructure. Prianna is passionate about distributed systems, diversity, and the intersection of the two.

Christy Calderon
Tax Partner
Armanino, LLP

Christy has been serving clients in public accounting since 2001, with a specialization in corporate tax services for technology companies. She began her career at the Big Four and has extensive experience in corporate taxation, including income tax provisions, ASC 740-10 analysis, IPO readiness, purchase accounting, compliance, R&D Credits, state tax issues, and consulting. She specializes in serving multinational and multistate corporations of all sizes, from startups and pre-IPO firms to publicly traded corporations.

The first recipient of the Jeff Soulages Values Award at Armanino, Christy is passionate about providing outstanding client service and training and mentoring her team of professionals. She is a California CPA and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Christy received her Bachelor's in Accountancy and Master's in Taxation from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
Annie Chen
Sr. Director of Consumer Business
Trend Micro Inc.

Annie is a senior-level business professional with 20 years of software industry experience, ranging from product marketing, online marketing, e-commerce operation, to business management. She currently serves as Sr. Director at Trend Micro, a global leader in cybersecurity solutions, and is in charge of the consumer business in North American and European markets. Annie has a track record of driving business results through strategic planning and solid execution, and she is known for her ability to build and lead talented and motivated global teams. Annie cares deeply about diversity and inclusion and is part of Trend Micro’s Trending Women’s initiative, which is designed to help women enter and grow in the world of cybersecurity. She holds a B.S. in International Business from Taiwan University and an MBA degree from the University of Washington.
Heidi has an MBA with an emphasis in Market Research and Strategy from Yale University. She is an adjunct faculty member in the Marketing & Business Analytics department in the Lucas College of Business at SJSU. Heidi has worked as a marketing strategist with Fortune 100’s, start-ups, and mid-size companies, across a variety of industries, including enterprise software, mobile tech, biopharma, ed tech, and higher ed. An experienced lecturer and facilitator, Heidi has taught all ages, from K to post-graduate both in the classroom and in professional development and training settings. With expertise in a wide array of educational technologies, Heidi’s pedagogical strength is encouraging creativity, innovation, and design thinking through a balance between online and in-person educational approaches. Her research focus is on ethics in data analytics, educational approaches for student success, and exploring the intersection between technology and student voice. An experienced writer and editor, Heidi has worked as a faculty in residence with the SJSU Writing Center; she concurrently holds an adjunct faculty position in Interdisciplinary Engineering to teach communications for undergraduates across all engineering and STEM disciplines. Heidi is currently pursuing her doctorate in higher ed leadership and is a member of SJSU’s EdD Cohort 4 (expected to graduate in 2022).

Currently a Director of Software Engineering at MuleSoft, Lindsay has been in the tech industry for over a decade, specializing in internal tooling, CI/CD pipeline design, and distributed systems.
Esteban A Guerrero

Founder & Managing Principal

Esteban Guerrero is a Sustainability, Strategy, and Operations executive, consultant, and entrepreneur who has advised and worked with business, non-profit, and government leaders worldwide to solve complex, systemic, multi-disciplinary problems and develop Products, Processes, Policies and Technologies for 20+ years.

Esteban has delivered close to $1B in Shared Value globally to organizations such as the California Energy Commission, Facebook, GE, LinkedIn, the Mexican Government, Motorola, Schlumberger, Stanford University, The Nature Conservancy, and others, in industries as diverse as Energy, Auto, Telecom, Healthcare, Water Tech, Conservation, and Big Tech, and in several countries, including China, France, Japan, Mexico, and Singapore. Esteban holds multiple degrees in business, engineering, and public policy from Monterrey Tech in Mexico, MIT, and Stanford.

Myra Haubrich

Sr. Engineer Manager
Salesforce Mulesoft
Myra is a Sr. Engineer Manager at Salesforce Mulesoft. She has a Computer Science Masters's degree specializing in Computer Algorithms. She enjoys exploring new technologies and applying innovation to improve efficiency and resiliency in any project she involves. Myra worked at startups and large enterprises and spoke at different conferences. She is passionate about technology and a strong advocate for everyone’s equal opportunity to learn and develop careers in technology.

Gokce Kahvecioglu
Research Scientist
Amazon Inc.

Gokce is a Research Scientist in the Supply Chain Optimization Technologies group at Amazon. Before joining Amazon, she worked as a Senior Analyst in the Revenue Management division at United Airlines. She completed her B.Sc. (2012) and M.Sc. (2014) in Industrial Engineering at Sabanci University and earned her Ph.D. (2020) in Industrial Engineering and Management Sciences at Northwestern University. Gocke’s research spans several areas of stochastic and combinatorial optimization for data science and supply-chain management applications. She was a recipient of Fulbright Scholarship, and her PhD work was recognized by INFORMS Data Mining Society and Dow Sustainability Innovation Committee.
Cassie Kwong
Entrepreneur, Coach and Marketing Manager

Cassie is the founder and creative director of Mighty Buns Athletics. She also works full-time as a user acquisition manager for Varo Bank, a digital fintech bank. In her free time she focuses on helping individuals build self-esteem and stay accountable and focused. A graduate of SJSU, Cassie co-founded the WILL Conference and Women in Business and was President of AKPsi.

Debra Lee-Rizzi
CFO
The Evergreen School

Raised in New York, Debbie moved to California almost the day after she turned 18. Graduating from San Jose State in 1985, she then moved to Hawaii where she managed large resort accounting offices. Wanting to try her own thing- she opened a health center for 4 years before returning to accounting but this time in Independent Schools where she has been for the past 18 years. Currently as CFO of The Evergreen School, a PS-8 in Shoreline, WA, she oversees not only the Business Office but also Facilities and IT. When not working, she can be found traveling to fun places or camping all over the beautiful Pacific Northwest and California.
Alvina Nishimoto

Scrum Master
Jack Henry & Associates

Alvina Nishimoto spent 34 years at HP in R&D and Marketing developing the HP Materials Management product, database and interoperability solutions, and various new business solutions. She spent 2 years at Symantec Corporation where she was the Engineering Enrichment Leader and then 3 years as the Agile Coach at the City of San Jose. Alvina currently is a Scrum Master at Jack Henry & Associates, a leading provider of banking software. She has a B.S. and an M.S. in Management Science and Engineering with a specialization in computer utilization from Stanford University.

Sylvia Pedder-Khanna

Owner
Rahulia Inc - DBA Sir/Madam, thomaspaul, Siren Song, Thomas O/Brien, Martyn Thompson

Sylvia is a manufacturing and trading entrepreneur based in New York City and Mumbai. She is co-founder of the home goods brand Sir/Madam, producing partner of the brands Thomaspaul, Siren Song, Thomas O/Brien Aero, and Martyn Thompson Studio, and a third-party supplying partner to many more. Sylvia was born and raised in Mumbai and grew up quietly learning the ropes while watching her father at work overseeing a broad network of businesses before defying the odds as a
woman in the traditionally male world of Indian manufacturing. Sylvia works out of her office in New York City, travels back and forth to oversee her team in India as well as production in several other countries, and lives in New York City with her husband, where together they have raised two children. She is a proud supporter of the continuation of traditional crafts through sustainable artisan networks, and a lifelong advocate for woman in business.

Suzanne Pilkington
CFO
State Space Labs, Inc.

Suzanne has been a finance executive in tech startups for the last 16 years. Her experience includes strategic and execution leadership in Finance, Accounting & Audit, Operations, HR, and Legal. Additionally, she was responsible for the financial activity related to the acquisition of Yummly, an AI-powered digital kitchen platform, by Whirlpool Corporation. Her industry experience includes Gaming, SaaS platforms, MedTech in global clinical trials, AdTech with sales to CPG international brands, SMB data storage devices for onsite and remote access, and computer peripherals. Currently, she is the CFO at State Space Labs, the creator of Aim Lab, an aim training app. Statespace has raised $100M and has over 100 team members across the globe to build gaming experiences, as well as partner with hospitals and researchers in the digital health space, using cognitive science and AI to revolutionize the way humans improve. Prior to tech startups, she spent 16 years in the legal industry running operations and finance, as well as managing financial reporting for private client estate and trust investments, partnerships, and private businesses.
Sarika Pruthi, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship, School of Global Innovation and Leadership, Lucas College and Graduate School of Business, SJSU

Sarika teaches introductory and advanced courses in entrepreneurship and international business. Her research on immigrant and social entrepreneurship, venture capital/private equity finance, has appeared in top peer reviewed journals. Sarika is passionate about the cause of innovation and student success. She organizes the Silicon Valley Innovation Challenge (SVIC), an annual business ideas competition, and advises Delta Gamma and IDEAS student clubs at SJSU. Prior to joining SJSU, Sarika taught and researched at King’s College London, University of London, and the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom (UK), where she also earned her MA and PhD.

DeAnna Pursai

Co-Founder and Executive Director

DeAnna holds a Master’s in Education Policy Analysis in the School of Education from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and an undergraduate degree in Elementary and Special Education from Purdue University. DeAnna has been named an Architect of Change on the Maria Shriver blog and co-awarded the Delta Kappa Gamma State Distinguished Career/Professional Service Award with CAA’s Co-Founder and Dean of Instruction, Dr. Pamela Lindsay. DeAnna is active in the downtown Rotary Club of San Jose, as a board member, as the Chair of the Rotary Climate Action Committee, and as the Rotary mentor to the newly formed Rotaract Club at San Jose State University. She proudly served 6 years as a board member of Christmas in the Park, and she is an active member in a vibrant Bay Area leads/referrals group called MyProGroup. She is big sister to
Angel Ellenberger, who happens to have Down syndrome and is an exquisite actress, entertainer and comedian. One of DeAnna’s bucket list items is to give a TED Talk about how to innovatively cast a wider higher education net to include adults with differing abilities who historically have not had access to higher education.

Natalie Quan

CFO
California Society of Certified Public Accountants

Natalie is the Chief Financial Officer of the California Society of CPA's and CalCPA Education Foundation, the nation's largest state CPA society. Prior to CalCPA she was the Controller of the San Francisco Ballet Association and a non-profit audit manager in a regional CPA firm. Natalie holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from San Jose State University, is a Certified Public Accountant, graduate of the Stanford University's Emerging CFO Financial Leadership Program and graduate of the CFO Leadership Council CFO Accelerating Growth Through Leadership Executive Program at MIT. In her spare time, Natalie sits on various non-profit boards and is currently Co-Chair of Circus Center, where she also practices circus arts.

Lecia M. Roundtree
Vice President, HR & Organizational Development  
PremierOne Credit Union, CA

Lecia has over 20 years of executive level experience managing Human Resource and Training functions designed to move employees forward within the organization. Areas managed include, Staff Development, Recruitment, Compensation and Employee Relations. Lecia is a certified recruiter and public speaker. She has presented information on a variety of topics both locally and internationally related to the disciplines of staff development, Human Resources and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She has created a number of programs designed to develop the organization’s next set of leaders, including a management development program, which was recently recognized by the CUNA HR & Organizational Development Council and received the Excellence Award.

Other personal accomplishments include a Master’s Degree in Human Resource Management. Lecia also serves on a variety of committees such as the Global Women’s Leadership Network (GWLN), Northern CA Sister Society and CUNA Councils. Lecia is very excited to challenge the perspective of Human Resources Management as we navigate through the challenges of an ever-changing work environment.

Alicia Sanchez-Barbosa  
Strategy Director  
MetLife Mexico

Alicia is an accomplished Strategy Director at MetLife Mexico. She studied Industrial Engineering at the Instituto Tecnologico de Mexico, where she graduated with honors before getting her MSIE and MSHS from the Georgia Institute of Technology. She has worked across several industries (architecture, aeronautical, construction and insurance) in the United States and Mexico, focusing on planning and leading teams in the implementation of successful strategic initiatives to take companies to the next level. Alicia enjoys mentoring young women and participating in volunteering activities.
Hung Truong

Senior Vice President of Engineering
Yubico Inc.

Hung presently leads the world-wide Engineering organization for Yubico – a global authentication leader – backed by renowned Swedish and US investors. He has over 20 years of experience in leading global hardware and software engineering teams, serving among the world’s most prominent multi-national enterprises and communication service providers. Prior to joining Yubico in February 2021, Hung was VP of Products for the Information Security division of Utimaco – a privately held company headquartered in Aachen, Germany. Prior to Utimaco, Hung led the Global R&D organization for the ArcSight SIEM business as its VP of Engineering – the largest business in the Enterprise Security Products division at Hewlett Packard (HP). Hung is a holder of a patent on Remote Wireless Network Management. He received his B.S., M.Sc. in Engineering from the University of Waterloo and his M.B.A. from the University of Western Ontario, in Canada.

Ormilla Vengersammy

Director of Academic Programs
The Coil Learning Center - Entertainment Technology Partners

Ormilla is an experienced business-oriented trainer and instructional coach. She is also a leader in instructional design for a variety of delivery methods including instructor-led, computer-based, and web-based training. She has over 20 years of demonstrated history of working in the corporate and non-profit industries in delivering hands-on training, curriculum development, employee coaching and development, and public speaking. Ormilla is a leading business and educational professional with strong interpersonal, communication and customer service skills. She possesses excellent organizational and planning skills. Ormilla is driven by a desire to inspire and develop others.
Sandy Yu

Global Lead, Oracle Cloud Advisory Boards
Oracle

Sandy has been with Oracle for almost 8 years and is currently the global lead for Oracle’s customer and partner advisory boards. Sandy leads the forum that enables OCI executives to engage with and collaborate with our most strategic customers; and nurturing those customers to inform product strategy and advocate for OCI. Sandy has over 20 years of experience in the high-tech industry, working for global brands including PricewaterhouseCoopers, WebEx, Cisco and now Oracle. Sandy’s broad experience gives her the insights to rapidly align her customers’ vision to Oracle’s key capabilities and value. Sandy lives in the SF Bay Area and enjoys tennis, listening to podcasts and globe-trotting with her husband and twin daughters.