

27th Annual COE Faculty and Staff Awards

**Congratulations
to all the winners!**

NORTHEASTERN •

Young Investigator Awards

Ambika Bajpayee

NSF Presidential Early Career Award for
Scientists and Engineers

Eno Ebong

NSF Presidential Early Career
Award for Scientists and Engineers

Siddhartha Ghosh

NSF CAREER Award

Kristina Johnson

NIH Career Development Award

Mona Minkara

NSF CAREER Award
NIH MIRA Award

Aravind Nagulu

NSF CAREER Award

Alireza Ramezani

ASME Rising Star Award
NSF CAREER Award

Qing Zhao

NSF CAREER Award

Yi Zheng

ASME Rising Star Award

Juner Zhu

ECS Toyota Young
Investigator Fellowship

Regional, National and International Awards

Ali Abur

University Distinguished Professor,
Northeastern University

Mansoor Amiji

Fellow, AIMBE

Rebecca Carrier

Fellow, CRS

Guohao Dai

Fellow, BMES

**Damilola
Daramola**

Fellow, Scialog

Eno Ebong

Fellow, AIMBE

Yun Raymond Fu

Fellow, AIMBE
Fellow, AAI

Peter Furth

Exceptional Paper Award, TRB

Jerome Hajjar

Distinguished Member, SSRC
Special Achievement, AISC
University Distinguished Professor,
Northeastern University

Regional, National and International Awards

Kayse Maass

JFIG Teaching Excellence Award,
INFORMS

Tommaso Melodia

Fellow, NAI

Sinan Müftü

Honorary Doctorate, Technical
University of Iași

Eduardo Sontag

Member, AAAS

Nian Sun

Fellow, APS
Fellow, NAI

Jones Yu

Senior Member, IEEE

Yi Zheng

Raymond Viskanta Award, NanoRad
Leadership for Inclusion and Diversity Award, AAPI Commission
Glenn Faculty Fellow, NASA

Distinguished Faculty Award



Hanumant Singh

**Professor, Electrical and Computer
Engineering & Mechanical and Industrial
Engineering; Program Director,
Master of Science in Robotics**

"Professor Singh is a globally recognized leader in the field of robotics, particularly in the development of autonomous underwater and aerial vehicles for challenging environments [...] His pioneering work in polar mapping in the Arctic, Greenland, and Antarctic has not only advanced the frontiers of scientific exploration but has also garnered significant attention in the popular media, showcasing NU's leadership in cutting-edge research. He played a pivotal role in the growth of the Robotics program at Northeastern, spearheading interdisciplinary hires across the College of Engineering, Khoury College of Computer Sciences, and other colleges [...] His vision and dedication were instrumental in founding and directing the highly successful MS Robotics program [...]"

He is a dedicated mentor [...] Beyond his teaching and research, Prof. Singh contributes to the broader academic community [...] His contributions have been transformative."

Distinguished Faculty Award



Yang Zhang

**Professor, Distinguished Fellow,
and Associate Chair of Research,
Civil and Environmental Engineering**

"Dr. Zhang specializes in air pollution modeling, atmospheric chemistry and transport, dynamics of atmospheric aerosols, and interactions among air quality, meteorology, and climate change. She has led or contributed to the development and application of major three-dimensional models on urban, regional, global atmospheric simulation, and she conducts some of the largest atmospheric air quality simulations in the country and the world. This work has had significant impact on applications related to both global air quality and hyperlocal air quality, both outdoors and indoors.

She is leading a Northeastern University Impact Engine initiative: *Healthier Air and People: Intelligent Solutions to Urban Pollution for Equity and Resilience (iSUPER)* [...]

Dr. Zhang is among our most accomplished and prolific scholars. Her research record has established her as a clear leader in the field."

Søren Buus Outstanding Research Award



Matthew Eckelman

**Associate Professor, Civil and
Environmental Engineering**

"Professor Eckelman's exceptional contributions to the fields of life cycle assessment, technoeconomic analysis, and sustainability analyses of environmental and industrial systems have not only advanced academic knowledge but have also enriched the academic community at our university. With an unwavering commitment to original research and a devotion to scholarship and service, Professor Eckelman stands out as a leading figure in his discipline [...]"

Professor Eckelman's research of recent years focuses on sustainable production and green design of industrial systems, pollutant emissions modeling, and links between climate change, infrastructure, and health.

His research not only provides valuable insights but also encourages students and colleagues to explore uncharted territories in their own work, fostering a culture of inquiry and innovation."

Søren Buus Outstanding Research Award



Stratis Ioannidis

**Professor, Electrical and
Computer Engineering**

"Dr. Ioannidis is a renowned leader in machine learning, distributed optimization, networking, and privacy... His stellar publication record in top-tier research journals and conferences, his success in leading interdisciplinary scientific teams involving researchers in both academia and the industry, and his extensive mentorship of a large and diverse pool of successful graduate students strongly deserve the recognition and honor bestowed by this honor [...]"

Dr. Ioannidis has successfully applied rigorous machine learning algorithms and optimization techniques to efficiently train and compress deep neural networks over Radio Frequency (RF) signals, to enhance neural network robustness to adversarial perturbations and to deployment in unseen environments, to optimize network and storage resources via distributed, adaptive algorithms, and to parallelize the solution of large-scale optimization problems."

Søren Buus Outstanding Research Award



Francesco Restuccia
Assistant Professor, Electrical
and Computer Engineering

[Dr. Restuccia's] visionary approach, technical expertise, and innovative contributions make him highly deserving of this prestigious recognition. He has demonstrated remarkable accomplishments across multiple research areas, including FPGA-level embedded systems, machine learning algorithms, wireless communication standards, and software-defined radio.

His research focuses on the intersection of artificial intelligence, wireless communications, and mobile computing. One of his pioneering contributions is a deep neural network that reduces computational load and airtime overhead in modern wireless networks, laying the groundwork for next-generation mobile systems in augmented and virtual reality. He has also developed a groundbreaking semantics-based framework for improving the efficiency of cellular networks, which optimizes task allocation while maintaining high accuracy and low latency.

Søren Buus Outstanding Research Award



Sara Rouhanifard

**Assistant Professor,
Bioengineering**

"Professor Rouhanifard has established a groundbreaking research program in epitranscriptomics, positioning herself as a leading expert in RNA modification, particularly in the detection and characterization of pseudouridine in mRNA. Her innovative approach combining direct RNA sequencing and single-molecule imaging tools is advancing our understanding of how RNA modifications regulate gene expression and, more importantly, how these modifications can be leveraged for diagnostic and therapeutic applications [...]"

She founded the Northeastern University Nucleic Acids Group (NUNAG), fostering interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty and students across multiple departments [...]"

Dr. Rouhanifard's pioneering work is positioned to have a significant impact on biomedical research, particularly in advancing our understanding the role of RNA in human health and disease."

Constantinos Mavroidis

Translational Research Award



Sarah Ostadabbas

**Associate Professor,
Electrical and Computer Engineering;
Director, Women in Engineering Program**

"[Dr. Ostadabbas] has focused on enabling advanced machine learning and computer vision in small data domains, particularly targeting contexts where data collection and labeling are expensive or protected by strong privacy and security laws, such as healthcare and defense applications. Her work addresses the challenges of small data by integrating domain knowledge into the learning process through generative models and data-efficient machine learning techniques.

Her innovative approach earned her the NSF CAREER award for proposing to advance computer vision in the domain of infant monitoring for detecting early signs of autism.

Sarah also developed a new course on Machine Learning with Small Data... receiving much attention from other institutions and industry."

Constantinos Mavroidis

Translational Research Award

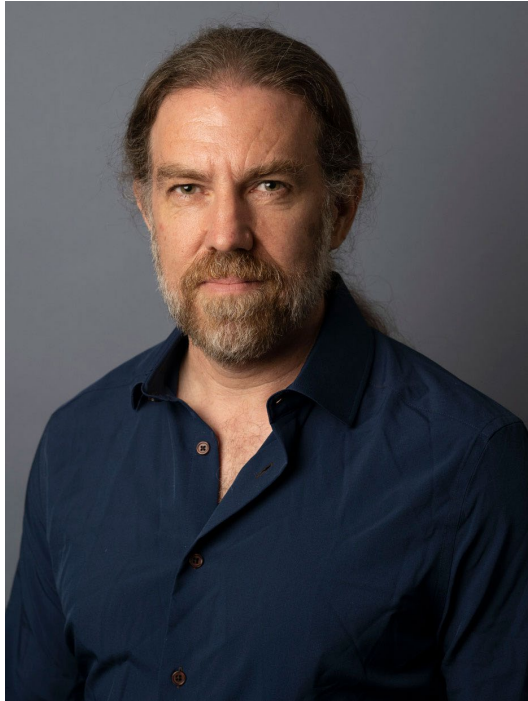


Mehrdad Sasani
Professor, Civil and
Environmental Engineering

"Professor Sasani's work has been focused in the areas of earthquake engineering, progressive collapse of structures, structural integrity and reliability, and building and community resilience. He is active on multiple American Society of Civil Engineers and Structural Engineering Institute (ASCE/SEI) and American Concrete Institute (ACI) technical committees focused in these areas. His recent journal publications are focused on threads to our built environment including earthquake resilience, coastal flooding, and joint probability of wind and flood hazards.

Prof. Sasani's research has contributed to advancing the field of structural engineering by working to update standards and codes for industry applications nationwide, assisting in the creation of the Massachusetts Architects and Engineers Emergency Response Task Force, and contributing to two industry standard books issued by ASCE and ACI."

Outstanding Faculty Service Award



Ken Duffy

**Professor, Electrical and
Computer Engineering &
Mathematics**

"Professor Duffy took on the role of Interim Chair of the ECE Department from November 2023 to June 2024, guiding the department through a transitional period with great care and effectiveness. Leading such a large and complex department is no small task, but Professor Duffy managed to ensure its smooth operation while fostering a collaborative and supportive environment for faculty and students alike. His willingness to step into this challenging role speaks volumes about his dedication and leadership

Before becoming Interim Chair, he had already made significant contributions to the university through his role as Chair of the ECE Tenure and Promotion Committee [...] His approachability and willingness to meet with faculty individually to ensure they had a thorough understanding of the process was greatly appreciated and demonstrates his deep commitment to the success of his colleagues."

Outstanding Faculty Service Award



Max Sederer

**Associate Co-op Coordinator,
Cooperative Education**

"Max has continuously shown a strong record of service to both Northeastern University and its surrounding communities. His level of service since he was hired has grown exponentially year over year and he has become a leader in cooperative education, student advising, and employer engagement. In addition, Max is a trailblazer in the field of DEI, specializing in neurodivergent individuals [...]"

Max is quick to volunteer for any and all committee work at both the college and University level and is able to immerse himself fully into each committee, regardless of his knowledge of the topic or goals, due to his strong desire to learn and become an expert in each thing he does [...]"

Two of his most recent presentations include *Finding the Right Fit: Demystifying Disability Support in Higher Education [...]* and *Effective Career Preparation for Students with Disabilities: A College Degree May Not Be Enough.*"

Outstanding Faculty Service Award



Richard West

**Associate Professor, Chemical
Engineering**

"[Dr. West] is, in short, amazing. He is incredibly organized, effective, and pleasant to work with. He contributions above and beyond to every committee he serves on and, in fact, even ones that he does not serve on [...]"

He has completely revamped the [graduate student] selection process, making it more modern, effective, and fair – at the same time coming up with streamlined ways to reduce workload on the review committee [...]"

He is a model educator, having been recognized by the graduate students for his excellent instruction of their graduate thermodynamics and graduate kinetics classes. He is also a model researcher and research mentor [...]"

Dr. West cares about the community, and this is clear and catching."

2025 Faculty Fellows



Md Noor E Alam
Associate Professor,
Mechanical and Industrial
Engineering

“[Prof.] Alam is an Associate Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering. His research focuses on developing decision analytics frameworks with innovative computational approaches to address critical societal challenges in healthcare, energy, and humanitarian logistics. His work employs interdisciplinary methods, including Large-Scale Optimization, Data Analytics, Causal Inference, and Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Prof. Alam's research has secured \$5.8 million in external grants, including an NSF CAREER award. His work has been accepted/published in 53 journal publications, including prestigious journals in Industrial Engineering, Operations Research, Data Science, Medical Informatics, Energy, and Public Health. Currently, Dr. Alam serves as an Associate Editor for the INFORMS Journal on Computing and the INFORMS Journal on Applied Analytics.”

2025 Faculty Fellows



Anand Asthagiri

**Associate Professor,
Bioengineering**

“Prof. Anand Asthagiri's research program is known for its contributions in cellular engineering, with applications in cancer therapy and tissue engineering. His lab has demonstrated strategies to control and guide cell migration using electric fields and asymmetric spatial confinement for applications in treating metastatic cells and in tissue engineering. His lab has shed insights on the quantitative role of cell-cell interactions in regulating developmental patterning, cell proliferation and invasion, processes that go awry during cancer progression.

These research contributions were spearheaded by 13 Ph.D. students, 3 postdocs, 12 Master's thesis students and over 40 undergraduate students who have trained under his mentorship. Prof. Asthagiri was a Founding Member of the BioE department.”

2025 Faculty Fellows



Ryan Koppes
Associate Professor,
Chemical Engineering

“[Prof.] Koppes is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemical Engineering. His research is focused on engineering new microfluidic devices that enable coculturing of heterogeneous tissues to study the influence of the autonomic nervous system (ANS) on organ function (heart, adrenal medulla, arterial) in response to environmental (i.e., oxygen tension) and pharmaceutical cues. [Prof. Koppes’] research is funded by the NIH and NASA, and he has published over 40 research papers and has 4 patents and provisional patents.

He has served as faculty advisor to Omega Chi Epsilon, the Chemical Engineering Honor Society, faculty search committee chair, and track chair of Neural Engineering for the Biomedical Engineering Society Annual Meeting. In 2020, he received the Department's Gilda Barabino Excellence in Mentoring Award, and in 2021 he received the Cells Tissues Organs Young Investigator Award.”

2025 Faculty Fellows



Sarah Ostadabbas

Associate Professor,
Electrical and Computer Engineering;
Director,
Women in Engineering Program

"[Dr.] Ostadabbas is an Associate Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering, leading the Augmented Cognition Laboratory (ACLab) at Northeastern University. Her research focuses on developing cutting-edge methodologies in human-centered machine learning, with applications in augmented reality, brain-computer interfaces, and computational behavioral analysis. Her work is supported by over \$8.6 million in research funding, including awards from the National Science Foundation (NSF), the Department of Defense, and industry leaders such as Sony and Amazon.

She has authored 41 journal publications and 86 conference papers, holds 8 U.S. patents, and has released 9 publicly available datasets. Recognized for her contributions, she received the 2022 NSF CAREER Award and the 2023 Sony Faculty Innovation Award."

Excellence in Mentoring Award



Andrew Gillen
Assistant Teaching
Professor, First Year
Engineering Program

“Dr. Gillen’s contributions to mentoring his peers is exceptional. He co-founded the Disability Alliance, a university-wide affinity group that provides community and support for faculty and staff identifying as having a disability.

He has co-led two successful Mutual Mentoring initiatives funded by the ADVANCE office - one focusing on building a community of faculty interested in furthering engineering education research and the other focused on fostering a more reflective teaching practice.

He does all of this while also serving as the official mentor for two junior faculty in our unit and teaching at least six classes each year. In addition to these official mentoring achievements, Dr. Gillen also mentors his colleagues in numerous informal ways.”

Excellence in Mentoring Award



Josep Jornet

Associate Dean of Research,
Office of the Dean; Professor,
Electrical and Computer Engineering;
Associate Director, Institute for the Wireless
Internet of Things

“Through the years, [Prof. Jornet] has created a dynamic, energetic, and safe environment for students to grow. It is relevant to know that many of his Ph.D. students joined his group very early, often as undergraduate researchers. It is his caring attitude, cheer-leader nature, attention to student professional development and personal growth, honesty, and high ethics, that hooks them in for the long run.

His students are very successful themselves. For example, two of his recent graduate Ph.D. students are now tenure-track assistant professors at SUNY Polytechnic. His passion and dedication are contagious, and his exponentially growing ‘alumni’ academic network is taking those one step further.”

Excellence in Mentoring Award



Yiannis Levendis

**COE Distinguished Professor,
Mechanical and Industrial
Engineering**

“Dr. Levendis has successfully combined scientific research and pedagogy uninterruptedly over the past 36+ years at Northeastern University and has been an avid mentor to students and colleagues, particularly to scientific matters, engineering solutions and lifestyle choices pertaining to environmental protection.

Prof. Levendis comes to Northeastern every workday and keeps his office doors always open so that students, colleagues and visitors are welcome to stop by. With his teaching, advising and office discussions, the nominee has been engaged in one-to one mentoring, peer-mentoring and group mentoring for 36+ years at NU.”

Faculty Research Team Award

iSUPER Impact Engine



Becca Berkey

Senior Director
of Integrative
Engagement &
Global Impacts, CSSH



Jennifer Dy

Professor, ECE; Director
of Experiential AI
Postdoc Education, Roux
Institute



**Matthew
Eckelman**

Associate Professor, Civil
and Environmental
Engineering



Khaled Ghannam

Assistant Professor, Civil
and Environmental
Engineering



Stratis Ioannidis

Professor, Electrical and
Computer Engineering

“[iSUPER’s] community-engaged, data-driven approach is highly innovative, enabling active participation of local governments and communities for research, and empowering policymakers to confidently prioritize public health and equity. One of the most unique aspects of iSUPER is the research team’s active partnership with municipalities and participating communities by engaging them to co-generate the data and co-develop equitable solutions for cleaner air. They already have formal partnerships with three municipalities (Chelsea, Revere, Brookline) and are recruiting more, including the city of Boston. [...] Instead of simply using people and infrastructure as laboratories, this research team is planning their research agenda, and the outcomes of that research, in active collaboration with the communities themselves.”

Faculty Research Team Award

iSUPER Impact Engine

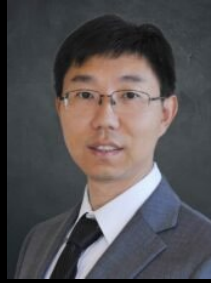


David Kaeli

COE Distinguished
Professor, ECE; Program
Director, Data Science



**Haris
Koutsopoulos**
Professor, Civil and
Environmental
Engineering



Shang Liu
Assistant Professor, Civil
and Environmental
Engineering



Amy Mueller
Associate Professor,
CEE and MES



Daniel O'Brien
Professor, Public Policy and
Urban Affairs & Criminology
and Criminal Justice, CSSH

“[iSUPER’s] community-engaged, data-driven approach is highly innovative, enabling active participation of local governments and communities for research, and empowering policymakers to confidently prioritize public health and equity. One of the most unique aspects of iSUPER is the research team’s active partnership with municipalities and participating communities by engaging them to co-generate the data and co-develop equitable solutions for cleaner air. They already have formal partnerships with three municipalities (Chelsea, Revere, Brookline) and are recruiting more, including the city of Boston. [...] Instead of simply using people and infrastructure as laboratories, this research team is planning their research agenda, and the outcomes of that research, in active collaboration with the communities themselves.”

Faculty Research Team Award

iSUPER Impact Engine



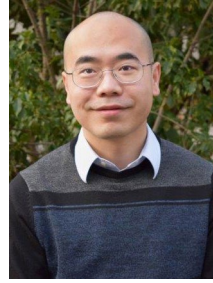
Julia Varshavsky

Assistant Professor, Civil
and Environmental
Engineering & Health
Sciences



Ming Wang

COE Distinguished
Professor, Civil and
Environmental
Engineering



Qi "Ryan" Wang

Associate Professor, Civil
and Environmental
Engineering



Sara Wylie

Associate Professor,
Sociology/Anthropology
and Health Sciences



Yang Zhang

Professor and
Distinguished Fellow,
CEE

"[iSUPER's] community-engaged, data-driven approach is highly innovative, enabling active participation of local governments and communities for research, and empowering policymakers to confidently prioritize public health and equity. One of the most unique aspects of iSUPER is the research team's active partnership with municipalities and participating communities by engaging them to co-generate the data and co-develop equitable solutions for cleaner air. They already have formal partnerships with three municipalities (Chelsea, Revere, Brookline) and are recruiting more, including the city of Boston. [...] Instead of simply using people and infrastructure as laboratories, this research team is planning their research agenda, and the outcomes of that research, in active collaboration with the communities themselves."

Outstanding Teachers of First Year Students Award



Tabitha Benitez-Rogers

**Assistant Teaching Professor,
English**

"Professor Benitez demonstrates the ability to go beyond the "basic" material for course and genuinely cares for her students and their writing skills. She gives her students literary freedom and empowers students by uplifting their strengths and working on their weaknesses. Professor Benitez is also just a kind human being and was extremely supportive and understanding of all of her student's needs throughout the semester."

"She is very respectful and very detailed when it comes to giving feedback. I love how she does not only talk about the negatives but also the positives and highlighted the sections of my writing that she found was strong. She was very understanding and has helped me shed some of the negative feelings and associations I had toward writing."

"[Prof. Benitez] was amazing. I'm glad to have learned from her. She always made sure that students did not fall behind, and was overall inclusive. She clearly was dedicated to helping us succeed."

Outstanding Teachers of First Year Students Award



Andrew Gillen

**Assistant Teaching Professor,
First Year Engineering Program**

“Prof. Gillen creates such a comfortable and inclusive space for learning and asking questions. I looked forward to his enthusiasm every class.”

“Instructor very clearly cared about the success of his students, never felt like I couldn't go to him for support.”

“Enthusiastic about what he was teaching, and highly organized. Dr. Gillen clearly put a lot of thought into his lectures and managed time efficiently.”

Outstanding Teachers of First Year Students Award



Alessandra Di Credico
Teaching Professor and Director of
Undergraduate Studies, Physics

“Dr. Di Credico brings a lot of energy to class each day, and she emphasizes the importance of connecting the lecture material to real-life applications. She provides many examples in each lecture, and she has us discuss among one another. She shows us problems that may be counter-intuitive and she explains the real physics behind them.”

“You could tell she is passionate about physics, which makes her an interesting professor to learn from. [It keeps] lectures upbeat and engaging, while also explaining the topics thoroughly.”

“She was very knowledgeable on physics and due to her enthusiasm for the course she was able to make the class very fun, and therefore easier to focus in and understand. I am very glad I ended up with her as my professor.”

Outstanding Teachers of First Year Students Award



Timothy Dransfield

**Associate Teaching Professor,
Chemistry and Chemical Biology**

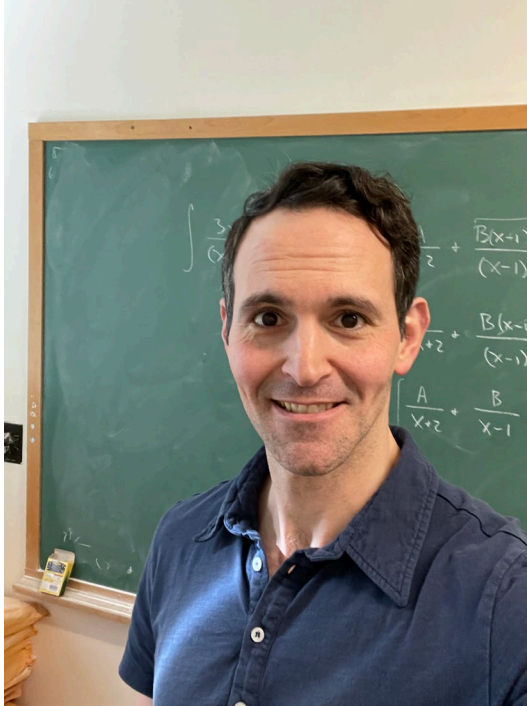
"He is very kind and really wants all his students to succeed and do well. He is very knowledgeable about his subject and tries his best to create an incredibly inclusive environment. Like highlighting minority figures who were revolutionary for the field of chemistry."

"This is the first professor who has been able to help me actually understand chemistry."

"Very engaging professor! [...] He's a great guy and helped make the class more fun. Every time you ask a question even if you answer incorrectly, he makes you feel smart."

"He's very energetic [...] He makes things understandable and explains difficult concepts well."

Outstanding Teachers of First Year Students Award



Marco Rainho
Part-Time Lecturer,
Mathematics

"He is visibly passionate for the course material and can explain it well."

"He made all concepts feel easy to understand and effectively taught all course material. He also was sympathetic and respectful towards all students and was enthusiastic when answering clarifying questions."

"Calc 2 is hard, and I struggled with the material sometimes, but he was very good at explaining the topics in a way that was easy to understand. He would always make sure to touch upon common mistakes so that we (hopefully) wouldn't repeat them."

Martin W. Essigmann Outstanding Teaching Award



Kathryn Schulte Grahame
Teaching Professor and Associate
Director, First Year Engineering Program

“[Dr. Schulte Grahame] has consistently demonstrated teaching effectiveness in a manner that substantially exceeds expectation. Her TRACE evaluations evidence student appreciation of her dynamic and inclusive classroom environment employing a variety of instructional strategies. Students are able to grasp the material and apply their knowledge in meaningful ways. Many of her colleagues on the First Year team use materials [Dr. Schulte Grahame] originated in our courses [...]

I can think of no one more deserving of the Essigmann Outstanding Teaching Award than [Dr. Schulte Grahame]. The development of Stacked Cornerstone and Service Learning Cornerstone alone have been an enormous amount of positively influential work by [Dr. Schulte Grahame]. She is an exceptional educator who has made a profound impact on the lives of the students in her classroom and, through her contributions to engineering education, students elsewhere.”

Fostering Engineering Innovation in Education Award



Erel Levine

**Associate Professor,
Bioengineering**

"Through his tireless efforts, [Prof. Levine] has created this innovative concentration from the ground up. This includes developing and teaching the [SSCB] curriculum, designing and mentoring capstone projects, as well as recruiting and supporting the faculty. [...]"

The work he has done has covered all aspects of [the SSCB] curriculum – from the development of courses focused on theoretical and computational aspects like modeling and inference (BIOE 5750), to experimental courses that teach practical implementation in the lab and data analysis (BIOE 5710), and also how these approaches can be used in sustainability applications to mitigate climate change (BIOE 5060)."

Fostering Engineering Innovation in Education Award



Benjamin Woolston

**Assistant Professor, Chemical
Engineering**

“When I think of innovative engineering design in courses, I think about creativity, problem-solving, experiential and collaborative learning, all centered on real-world applications. [Prof. Woolston] has significantly fostered this innovation in our core Pharmaceutical Engineering courses and has put forth a hands-on laboratory for students to collaboratively engage in industry-focused technical problems at the pilot scale. Overall, his development of the 3 courses for Pharmaceutical Engineering has highlighted how engineering design can be taught in innovative ways and bring engineering content to a broader group of students, and the need for these shifts in pedagogy were recently highlighted in the new Engineering Mindset report at ASEE.”

Outstanding Cooperative Education Coordinator Award



Kristina Hals

**Assistant Co-op Coordinator,
Cooperative Education**

"What sets Kristina apart is her unique approach to teaching and advising, rooted in her background in the arts. She incorporates elements of visual art and improvisational activities into her classroom, creating an engaging and interactive learning environment. This approach not only helps students relax and increase verbal interaction but also boosts their confidence. Kristina strives to foster community in the classroom through team-based learning, which encourages students to hold each other accountable and conduct peer evaluations. This approach not only enhances the learning experience but also furnishes students with valuable teamwork and communication skills."

Outstanding Cooperative Education Coordinator Award



Jake Walker

**Senior Co-op Coordinator
and Assistant Director,
Cooperative Education**

"[Jake] regularly acts as first point of contact for incoming students through welcome days and admissions days, and regularly meets with [first year] and prospective students to discuss co-op opportunities. He supports students in all facets of the interviewing and application processes and preparing for the start of their co-ops. He works to help with communications, professional behavior questions, advocating for themselves as young professionals and understanding all of the resources they have at their disposal while on co-op and not in classes.

Jake has worked with co-op employers to understand valuable student skillsets and employer expectations and convey this information to students through advising and classroom settings. During their co-ops, Jake meets regularly with co-op students outside of normal business hours to help support workplace issues and develop planning for resolving workplace issues or how to be more effective employees."

Outstanding Staff Award



Nicole Brewer

**Senior Academic Advisor,
Graduate Student Services**

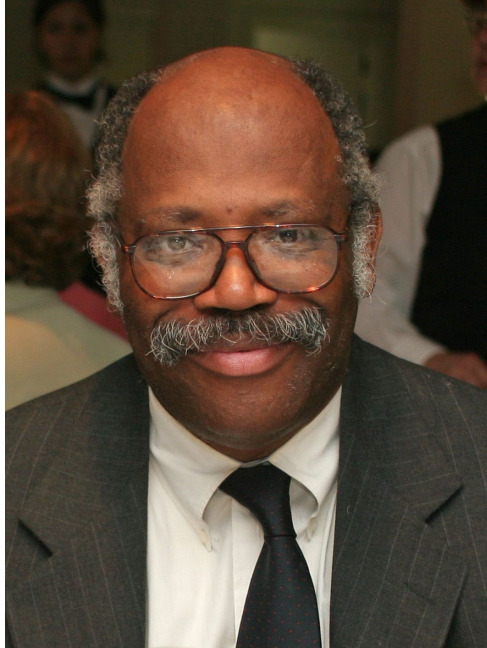
"Nicole is a strong and reliable leader with a keen ability to delegate or take ownership according to the circumstances..."

Despite the complexity and volume of the tasks she has taken on, Nicole always has a smile and optimistic attitude...

Nicole has transformed the PlusOne Accelerated Master's Program in the College of Engineering...

She is a gentle leader who contributes enormously to the positive culture within COE and our relationships with other units."

Outstanding Staff Award



James Jones Jr.

**Associate Director
of IT Services,
Computer Center**

"James consistently demonstrates the best aspects of positive user-focused support..."

His experience is crucial to developing new and interesting ways to combine ideas and critical thinking to resolve issues our team has never encountered before...

He has always been eager to learn and advance his knowledge. Whenever I go to his office, I see new books on different modern emerging subjects...

He has trained our junior staff members with the utmost patience and understanding and has brought us all up to a level of understanding that allows us to effectively fulfill our roles."

Outstanding Staff Award



Alaina Karcher
Administrative Assistant,
Office of the Dean

"Any time you enter the Dean's Office, you are immediately greeted by Alaina's warmth and kindness. She is an approachable and helpful colleague who maintains a calming presence no matter what is going on around her. When you are speaking with Alaina, she is fully invested in the person in front of her and makes them feel valued...

I have been blown away by her relentless work ethic, her boundless positivity, and her fierce dedication...

Alaina is keenly aware of what the College's goals are, and what the Dean's Office must do to best support those goals. She gleefully accepts the responsibilities of her position as the connective tissue between the Dean and the many members of the College's leadership team."

Going the Extra Mile “GEM” Award



Laura Kenney

**Assistant Director of
Academic Advising,
Undergraduate Student Services**

"Laura is one of those individuals whose commitment to the community shines through in everything she does, and her dedication to the students always goes above and beyond..."

One of Laura's standout qualities is her commitment to recognizing others. Whether it's during our weekly team shoutouts, writing award nominations, or submitting Kudos on the COE Staff Engagement site, Laura is deeply devoted to celebrating the achievements of her colleagues...

She is often the first person to say, 'how can I help?' when she already has a busy to-do list of her own.

It's clear that Laura is internally driven, by things like kindness and the desire to have a positive impact, which make Going the Extra Mile natural to her."

Going the Extra Mile “GEM” Award



Saige McGinnis
Lab Coordinator,
Bioengineering

"Saige is a full partner with an amazing can-do attitude that has expanded the range of what is possible in our teaching lab..."

Managing the bioengineering teaching lab is a big job and a complex logistical problem. However, Saige doesn't stop there – she goes further to help plan the logistics of how we can add a new experiment or experience to the curriculum or even develop a new course...

Beyond supporting the laboratory courses that occur in the teaching lab, Saige has created a strong administrative framework to support our capstone design teams doing much-needed hands-on experimentation. She has been a kind and helpful guide."

Rising Star Award



Gabriella Bucci
Research Development
Associate,
Office of the Dean

"Gabby has been a tremendous force in organizing the research events that COE faculty hold, both in Boston and other locations. Because of her efforts, faculty have been able to bring thousands of people to campus to experience NU research leadership...

She is organized, dedicated, and responsive...

In addition to focusing on her core responsibilities in research, Gabby is always supportive of others. She has been instrumental in running the student tents for the graduation celebrations...

This fall, Gabby initiated her MS in Finance (her second master's), to continue to grow professionally. I am incredibly impressed by her dedication to both her current job and to her continuing professional development."

Rising Star Award



John Furtado
Systems Coordinator,
Computer Center

"Jon has developed a reputation for efficiently finding solutions to problems while maintaining a positive, supportive relationship with members of the COE community... Perhaps John's greatest asset is his willingness to go above and beyond to ensure a problem is solved. He is very knowledgeable, and in most cases is able to resolve issues quickly and efficiently. If he is not able to solve a problem on his own, he seeks counsel from others and follows through to ensure that any concerns or questions are resolved...

As a teacher, I valued the time John spent with me to help me understand the root cause of my issues. Each time I visit John, I am appreciative of the extra moments he spends to create a positive learning environment for me. I am humbled by his patience, and the lessons he gently teaches. The positive teachings John has given me are an important reminder of the humanity that I can bring back to my own classroom."

Rising Star Award



Gretchen Hahn

**Recruiting Specialist,
Graduate Admissions**

"What impresses me most about Gretchen is her diligence. She has never missed a deadline and always delivers extraordinary results, often going above and beyond what is asked. She successfully juggles many responsibilities, particularly during the fall recruitment travel season, which is a remarkably busy time of year for the Graduate Admissions Recruitment team. She manages her tasks and projects with grace and a smile. Her open and friendly personality makes her a successful recruiter...

She continually takes initiative and practices leadership that benefits and empowers others. In these instances, I believe her selflessness is what makes her a committed member of the team and an exceptional collaborator to the Northeastern community."

Rising Star Award



Rebecca Ricard
Program Coordinator,
Civil and Environmental
Engineering

"Rebecca's work highlights her collaborative spirit, her initiative, her interest and ability to learn many new tasks quickly, and her deep dedication to excellence and to the department..."

Because of her outstanding resourcefulness and rapport with the faculty, she now often creates the first draft of the future teaching schedules and teaching assistant assignments, both of which are complex processes that address intersecting priorities of the programs and faculty...

She has also helped transition most of our processes to Smartsheet; she has helped create a highly valuable Graduate Student Guidebook; and she created numerous spreadsheets related to manipulating and processing departmental data."

Outstanding Staff Teamwork Award

First Year Engineering



Matthew Burns

Academic Operations Manager,
Undergraduate Student Services

"Although a relatively new team, they have made meaningful strides toward fostering a collaborative and supportive environment..."

Their combined efforts have positively impacted our department, improving both the faculty and student experience...

I've been impressed with the administrative team's ability to successfully support our large first year student population (approximately 1,000 annually) with limited resources...



Nicholas Cunningham

Operation and Technology Manager,
Undergraduate Student Services

The team has also collaborated with staff at EXP and faculty across the global university system in recent years. Working together with those groups on training and makerspace best practices helps to ensure that students in Oakland and London have an excellent Cornerstone experience and also that students in Boston are able to fully take advantage of all the hands-on making facilities on campus."

Outstanding Staff Teamwork Award Marketing and Communications



Rose Hamilton
Senior Writer and
Communications
Associate



Janet LeClair
Director of Marketing
and Communications



Bella Martinez
Video and Multimedia
Producer



Christina McNeil
Digital Media and
Web Manager



damian shiner
Assistant Creative
Director

Through this team's outstanding collaborative efforts, communications campaigns have had a significant impact on the College's success.

A few key highlights:

- Led Co-op 115 Celebration messaging, deliverables, and communications plan that helped to build a loyal, engaged COE alumni community to ultimately further partnerships, mentoring, and giving.
- Created awareness and engagement leading up to and during Giving Day 2024, ultimately leading to COE winning (first place for the first time) the Challenge of the Colleges with 203% more unique donors than last year.
- Successfully campaigned to help build COE's brand reputation, contributing to an increase in US News and World Report rankings.

Diversity Recognition Award



Luke Landherr

**COE Distinguished Teaching Professor
and Associate Chair for Undergraduate
Studies, Chemical Engineering**

"Dr. Landherr's national leadership on DEI issues is particularly noteworthy. As Chair of AIChE's Societal Impact Operating Council, he led the rewriting of AIChE's Diversity Statement, a pivotal moment for the organization. At a time when there was little external pressure to act, Dr. Landherr successfully advocated for a broader and more inclusive statement, which became the foundation of AIChE's IDEAL path—Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism, and Learning. His foresight and determination helped create a forward-thinking statement that now guides one of the largest professional organizations in the field. [...] On the Northeastern University campus, Dr. Landherr's commitment to DEI is equally profound. He has also supported LGBTQ+ students by participating in Northeastern's LGBTQ+ info session for prospective graduate students—an initiative that is unique to our department and vital to fostering a welcoming environment for queer students."

Diversity Recognition Award



Esin Sözer

**Assistant Teaching Professor,
Bioengineering**

"In her role as Chair of the DEI Committee, Prof. Sozer has spearheaded numerous initiatives across four core areas: Education and Curriculum, Inclusive Community Engagement, Belonging in the Academic and Research Environment, and Diversity and Inclusion Considerations in Recruitment. One of her notable contributions in the area of education is her leadership in the creation of Teaching Resources for Inclusive and Socially-Aware Bioengineering (TRISAB). Through TRISAB, Prof. Sozer has made it easier for the Bioengineering department faculty to access bioengineering-related teaching materials and resources that specifically address issues of justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and belonging (JEDI-B). This valuable resource enhances the ability of faculty to integrate DEI principles into their curricula, fostering a more inclusive learning environment that prepares students to think critically about the societal impacts of their work."

Impact Award



“At Northeastern University, Prof. Makowski has been a key figure in the formation of the Bioengineering department and in leading the department through its first decade. He has made a lasting impact in shaping the academic and research landscape of the department, mentoring students and faculty alike while fostering a culture of innovation. His ability to bridge the gap between engineering and real-world applications has earned him a distinguished reputation in both academia and industry. His research has not only advanced the field of bioengineering but has also created tangible, positive changes in global health and environmental sustainability.”

Lee Makowski

**Professor, Bioengineering and
Chemistry and Chemical Biology**

Impact Award



Polina Starobinets

**Project Manager,
Office of the Dean**

"Polina not only makes COE better on a regular basis but also provides her colleagues with transformative tools to do the same. Thus, her impact compounds exponentially [...]"

Thanks to Polina's ability to anticipate challenges and her commitment to iterative improvement, our project moved forward smoothly and much faster than it otherwise would have [...]"

Polina has a talent for organizing and expressing complex projects into succinct, measurable targets [...]"

"She has been a wonderful partner to work with, always willing to help out where she can and forcing you to look at things from a different perspective."

COE Partner in Excellence Award



Laurie Bowater
Executive Director,
Gift Planning

"Laurie consistently goes beyond expectations in providing exceptional service to the COE Development Team. Her tireless work ethic and creativity increase our capacity to fundraise and provide significantly enhanced support for initiatives and projects in the College of Engineering [...]"

Laurie's vast understanding of gift planning, combined with the mantra of always looking at gift scenarios with a "yes we can" attitude allowed her and her team to raise \$5 million dollars for the College for the fiscal year of 2024 [...]"

Laurie is a born educator, at once enthusiastic about the more arcane details of gift planning and astute enough to make it accessible to her colleagues [...]"

The success that COE has achieved in securing planned gifts speaks to her expertise and creativity."

COE Partner in Excellence Award



Meaghan Healey
Associate Vice President,
Facilities Operations

"Our interactions with Meaghan are typically in emergency situations. She is able to communicate the problem clearly, work with her team to fix it, and let the occupants know of the status [...]"

Responsiveness is critical to maintaining functioning buildings. We cannot imagine the number of complaints, requests, and questions that come across her desk every day. Yet her response time to COE is outstanding. Every time, there is a solution by the next day [...]"

After 3 years of a problem, Meaghan was able to – within a day – immediately isolate the problem, fix it, develop safety measures to make sure it does not happen again, and communicate across teams."

Everyday Excellence Award



Lindsay Levy
Associate Director,
Faculty and Staff Affairs

"The Kudos program Lindsay initiated is just one example of how she truly cares about the wellbeing of everyone in our college... and of how every time she undertakes a project, she gives it her utmost attention and strives for the best possible outcome [...]"

I greatly appreciate her collaboration, flexibility, and hard work... Her thorough preparation and engaging delivery underscored her deep commitment to our college's mission [...]"

Her thoughtful approach, positive energy, and genuine motivation creates an uplifting environment for our community [...]"

Simply a kind person, who has a great ability to make sure others are respected and seen in her interactions with them."

Lindsay won this award as the person who has received the most Kudos this year. All faculty and staff are encouraged to send kudos to staff and their managers at any time, by going to the [Staff Engagement Hub](#).

Heart of the Team Award



Lindsay Werner,
Director,
Graduate Student Services

"Lindsay is always going out of her way to make sure the members of her team know how much they're valued. She's also become known for her deliberate team-building efforts, to leverage everyone's strengths and while keeping motivation up even in the most challenging of times...

She is dedicated to the success and wellbeing of her team and has been a champion of strong team culture... creating a space for each of her team members to thrive and gain satisfaction from their work. She has facilitated team celebrations for personal and professional wins and has prioritized strengthening inclusion and community on her team, which includes members from not just Boston, but network campuses across the US and Canada...

Culturally, Lindsay created an atmosphere of mutual support, positivity, and inclusivity, which not only strengthens their bond but also enhances their service to the community."

Lindsay won this award as the person who has given the most Kudos this year, actively recognizing her colleagues. All faculty and staff are encouraged to send kudos to staff and their managers at any time, by going to the [Staff Engagement Hub](#).

Farewell Recognition



Jerome F. Hajjar

**University Distinguished Professor,
CDM Smith Professor, and Chair, Civil
and Environmental Engineering**

Dr. Hajjar joined Northeastern in 2010 as Chair of our Department of Civil Engineering, which he expanded to what is now our Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. For the past 15 years under his leadership, graduate enrollment has grown from 70 MS and 30 PhD students to 130 MS students and 80 PhD students, while the undergraduate program remains one of the largest, if not the largest, at an R1 private institution. The department's research expenditures tripled during this timeframe, from ~\$4.5 million to \$12 million today, with research funding totaling \$60 million. Dr. Hajjar has worked tirelessly and passionately to not only grow our program, but to also take the lead in developing our students so that they are prepared for the fast-evolving field of civil and environmental engineering, and to make a positive impact on society. Some achievement highlights include growing the department's space by 10,000 sq ft; dramatically increasing funding for a variety of faculty and student programs like graduate fellowships and master's and undergraduate scholarships; and initiating several new degrees and over 30 new courses, which greatly expanded the disciplinary and interdisciplinary breadth and depth in the curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. These efforts and more have raised the stature of our civil and environmental engineering program as evidenced by the graduate program rankings increasing more than any other top 50 program in the country. Jerry is also a leader in his field. He is a CDM Smith endowed professor, was elected to the National Academy of Engineering in 2022, named a university distinguished professor in 2024, is a fellow of the ASCE and SEI, and has been recognized with many other notable achievements.

Farewell Recognition



Michael MacNeil
Laboratory Manager,
Civil and Environmental
Engineering

"Mike has been an outstanding and dedicated employee at Northeastern University for 43 years. He began his career in the military, serving as an Aviation Electronics technician in the Navy. His work included the maintenance and repair of electronic systems on the E-2C Hawkeye aircraft.

Upon completing his service in 1981, Mike joined Northeastern University, employed in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE). He worked as a laboratory technician for ECE while studying at Northeastern for an undergraduate degree in business and later earned a Master's degree in project management.

In 2008, he made the move to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, then led by interim chair Tom Sheahan. Mike built the rest of his career working with CEE during a period of pivotal growth for our programs. Mike was instrumental in the establishment of many of our spaces, including the CEE Innovation Studio and our research and teaching laboratories. Many of the faculty and students relied heavily on Mike's expertise for fabrication and instrumentation in their own research. Mike traveled around the region and around the country supporting projects related to wind energy, robotic inspection of bridges, and geotechnical engineering. Mike's dedication and expertise was instrumental beyond research and our teaching laboratories, as he worked closely with many of our students and student groups, especially Steel Bridge, Concrete Canoe, and Engineers Without Borders."

Farewell Recognition



Gina O'Brien-McLelland

**Associate Director of
Academic Space Operations,
Office of the Dean**

“Gina O’Brien-McLelland is known as the linchpin of our college, the go-to for questions and help and the epitome of selfless service, enthusiasm, and dedication to our college and Northeastern. With decades of service, Gina is responsible for the amazingly functional and beautiful spaces that we all benefit from. She has led all aspects of new and renovated space projects, from formulating a vision and project plan to defining the budget and scope and pushing it forward to make it a reality. In every effort—big or small, and many very big!—she has focused on creating value for our students, faculty, and staff. Her efforts are driven by a passion to create value for the university, wanting to see it thrive, and wanting the best for all of you. She is not only a master project leader with the energy and efficiency to get projects done and done well—our spaces are the envy of other colleges—but also a master of human relations who knows and is friendly with everyone and ensures team members are praised for their contributions.”

Dean's Award for Meritorious Service



Nik Bear Brown

**Associate Teaching Professor,
Multidisciplinary Graduate
Engineering Programs**

“Nik Bear Brown is a treasure to the College of Engineering. He has an extremely interesting and varied background as a performer (professional wrestling), artist, and instructor. He has already won awards for his teaching in the MGEN program. This award recognizes his extraordinary contributions over the past year as a leader in training students and faculty in the transformative applications of modern AI. Our MS in Information Systems program thrives because of the agile way faculty like Nik adapt their teaching to meet current market demands, with AI being one of the most recent and impactful examples. With minimal preparation time, Nik developed and executed a two-week, hands-on bootcamp accessible to Northeastern students across all disciplines, teaching them how to harness AI to enhance their learning. This innovative 0-credit badge course attracted an impressive 500 students from undergraduate and graduate levels across multiple colleges. Additionally, he organized a well-received faculty seminar focused on integrating AI into teaching, fostering a deeper understanding of AI’s pedagogical potential. Nik has also been a driving force behind the development of several cutting-edge courses, from prompt engineering and generative AI to research methods in AI, building virtual environments, and computational skepticism—all of which position Northeastern at the forefront of AI education. His dedication, creativity, and foresight continue to enrich the College of Engineering, shaping a new generation of students and educators equipped to excel in an AI-driven world.”

Dean's Award for Meritorious Service



Maricla Pirozzi Quarthey
**Director, Multidisciplinary Graduate
Engineering Programs**

“With over eight years of service, this award honors Maricla’s dedication to the creation and execution of the MS in Information Systems-Bridge program and for being the glue that holds together all of COE’s MGEN—our largest and most physically distributed academic unit. Through her leadership, MGEN has successfully expanded to nine campuses, delivering high-quality academic programs and operational consistency for over 3,500 students across 200 sections annually. She works tirelessly for COE and for our network activities. Her leadership fosters a culture of collaboration and teamwork, aligning MGEN’s efforts with other university units to strengthen advising frameworks, enhance communication systems, and respond swiftly to student needs. She is a strong advocate for all of MGEN and the driving force in embedding MGEN’s mantra of “innovate and execute,” such as leading MGEN to successfully expand AI education to include 22 sections, serving over 500 students. Maricla has also been nominated for the university’s Model Mentor and Coach Staff Excellence Award, recognizing her as a career catalyst who builds strong relationships and fosters professional growth through mentoring and coaching in MGEN and across Northeastern.”

Dean's Award for Meritorious Service

115th Co-op Anniversary Team



Ariana Brody

Assistant Co-op
Coordinator,
Multidisciplinary
Masters Co-op Programs



Janet LeClair

Director, Marketing and
Communications, Office
of the Dean



Christina Lonardo

Event Specialist, Office
of the Dean



andrew Lujan

Program Operations
Manager, Cooperative
Education



Iraz Medhi

Sr. Co-op Coordinator
and Associate Director,
Cooperative Education



Sarah Mockler

Associate Co-op
Coordinator and
Assistant Director, Co-

“As everyone knows, we celebrated the 115th anniversary of the co-op in 2024. The initial idea started in the college late 2022 and expanded to include the whole university. We had a semester of celebration in Fall 2024, with events in Arlington, Silicon Valley, Boston, and Burlington. This kind of event cannot happen without the time and dedication of a lot of people, and today I want to publicly acknowledge and thank the COE team that did all of the work. They spent time researching the history of the co-op, and produced an award-winning booklet that I hope everyone has a chance to see. They organized a wonderful set of events for our co-op partners and alums in Boston. They attended events in Arlington, Silicon Valley, Miami, and Burlington that have helped to connect COE to more alums and potential partners. This involved a lot of effort, above and beyond the other responsibilities all of these people had. and the results were overwhelmingly positive. This award is but a small display of my gratitude to that whole team.”

Dean's Award for Meritorious Service

115th Co-op Anniversary Team



Lorraine Mountain

Assistant Dean and Senior
Co-op Coordinator,
Cooperative Education



Alison Nogueira

COE Distinguished Senior
Co-op Coordinator and
Senior Director of Co-op,
Cooperative Education



damian shiner

Assistant Creative
Director, Office of the
Dean



Polina Starobinets

Project Manager, Office of
the Dean



Ev Stefanakos

Assistant Co-op
Coordinator, Cooperative
Education



Chelsea White

Operations Associate,
Cooperative Education

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**Congratulations to all the
Awardees!**



**Northeastern
University**