



UNC CHARLOTTE

*The WILLIAM STATES LEE COLLEGE of ENGINEERING*

*Creating and Developing More Diverse  
Engineering Leaders*

*October 24, 2018*

*Student Activity Center Salons A-E*

*Special Thanks to Our Supporters*



**DAIMLER**



**"Leadership is an action, not a position." - Donald McGannon**

## *Today's Schedule*

2:00 *Check In*

3:00-3:45 *Breakout Session I*

*Salon D*

*"Finding Success in Manufacturing: Lessons Learned from Leaning In"*  
*Presenter: Heather Callahan, Daimler*

*Salon E*

*"Where and How to Begin your Path to Leadership"*  
*Presenters: Angela Bell and Felix Torres, NAVAIR*

4:00-4:45 *Breakout Session II*

*Salon D*

*"Diverse Engineering Leadership-Creating Your Pathway"*  
*Panel Discussion moderated by Cristina Yanez, featuring: Eliana Toro, Nkechi Anako, Jay Joshi and Carl Smith, Corning Optical Communications*

*Salon E*

*"Skills needed for Successful Careers" Panel Discussion*  
*moderated by Sherman Mumford, sponsored by SME featuring Dr. Diane Chong, Boeing and Tony Donato, Harper Corporation of America*

5:00 *Dinner Buffet (lobby area of Salons A-C)*

5:45 *Opening Remarks: Dr. Patty Tolley, PE, Associate Dean*

*Special Welcome: Chad Stephens, Sealed Air Corporation*

*Keynote Speaker: Diana Huerta, Sealed Air Corporation*

6:45 *Closing Remarks: Rob Wessels, Commscope*

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**"A good leader leads the people from above them.  
A great leader leads the people from within them."**

*- M. D. Arnold*

## *Special Welcome*

### *Chad Stephens, Sealed Air Corporation*



*Chad Stephens is Vice President of Global Innovation and Development for the Product Care division of Sealed Air, a Fortune 500 manufacturing company. He leads a global team of 200+ engineers, scientists, and technologists who are responsible for developing and supporting new protective packaging solutions that contribute to the commercial viability of the company. The solutions developed by Chad's team represent 20% of Product Care's total sales.*

*Chad joined Sealed Air in 1996 as an Applications Specialist for the company's Food Care division, and has held numerous management positions prior to becoming Vice President in 2012. He serves as a subject matter expert in multiple packaging formats, facilitating strategic partnerships with some of the world's leading companies.*

*He has a passion for emerging technology, innovation and problem solving and is an engaged leader with experience managing multiple technical disciplines, culture transformation, and performance improvement.*

*Chad is a graduate of Clemson University with a bachelor's degree in packaging science. He has been awarded five U.S. patents for packaging solutions.*

## *Closing Remarks*

### *Rob Wessels, Commscope*

*Mr. Wessels is vice president of Cable and Standards Research and Development for CommScope, a global leader in infrastructure solutions for communications networks. For over 28 years, Mr. Wessels has held various engineering management positions at CommScope. He has been involved in the design and development of twisted pair, coaxial and optical fiber cable and assemblies for cable television, local area network and wireless applications. He has 14 patents in the field of telecommunications cable design.*

*In 2012, he received the Distinguished Career Award from the Wire and Cable Manufacturers Alliance. He was elected to a third term as board chairman for the International Wire and Cable Symposium in 2016 and served on the board of directors for the Communications Cable and Connectivity Association.*

*Mr. Wessels holds a bachelor's of engineering degree from The Georgia Institute of Technology and an MBA from Georgia State University. He also serves on the Dean's Advisory Board for the School of Engineering at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.*



## *Keynote Speaker*

*Diana Huerta*

*Applications Engineering Manager and Technical Expert for Inflatables  
Sealed Air Corporation*

*Diana Huerta is the Applications Engineering Manager for Sealed Air's Product Care division, a Fortune 500 manufacturing company. She leads a team of ten engineers and scientists responsible for researching customer needs, developing new solutions, and implementing commercially viable protective packaging solutions. Diana joined Sealed Air in 2006 as an Applications Specialist for the company's Food Care division. Six years later she joined Product Care as Senior Product Development Engineer for a ground-breaking technology produced from 100% biodegradable materials.*



*In December 2013, she became the Project Manager for a group of projects supporting the highest sales growth within the division. Most recently in May, she transitioned to her current management role.*

*Diana has great passion for people as evidenced in January of 2016 when she assumed the leadership chair for Sealed Air's Global Women's Initiative Network in addition to her daily responsibilities. During this assignment she managed over twenty Employee Resource Groups in addition to a focused team of twenty-eight global members comprised of managers, directors, and high performers to drive and execute the company's strategy for diversity and inclusion. Diana assisted in opening several Employee Resource Groups globally in Turkey, Brazil, Mexico, India, and Portugal.*

*Diana has a bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering from Venezuela and holds a Master's degree in Meat Science from Texas A&M University. She has been awarded 3 U.S. patents for packaging solutions, has 6 published academic papers, and is fluent in English and Spanish.*

*Diana is lucky to be married to a culinary chef and is the mom of 3 beautiful girls.*

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**“Don't mistake politeness for lack of strength”**

*In 2009, Sonya Sotomayor, became the first Latina to serve on the Supreme Court in American history.*

## Session I Salon D

*“Finding Success in Manufacturing: Lessons Learned from Leaning In”*



*Heather Callahan is the Director, Continuous Improvement (CI)/Operations Excellence at Daimler Trucks North America. Her team of Lean Experts and Six Sigma Black Belts work collaboratively across eight manufacturing plants in North America as well as key corporate Operations departments such as Manufacturing Engineering, Corporate Quality, and Supplier Management.*

*Since 2013, Heather served as the Operations Excellence Manager for the CI/Truck Operations System department. In her current role, Heather is responsible for leading the Lean Expert program and helping to define and drive key performance indicators and continuous improvement policy deployment strategies across the entire Operations & Specialty Vehicles network. Over this past year, her team has been pivotal in creating a Blue Sky Operations Swarm to help set and define the Operations Strategy.*

*Prior to 2013, Heather served as Sr. Environmental Engineer at the Cleveland Truck Plant and previously for the Mt. Holly Truck Plant. Before joining the Daimler team, Heather was an Environmental Engineer with the North Carolina Division of Air Quality and also worked as a Middle School Math teacher.*

*Heather received a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1997. Heather has been married for 19 years and has three kids.*

***Get Involved, Stay Connected and  
Grow your Network!***

*Learn more at:*

[womeninmanufacturing.org/north-carolina](http://womeninmanufacturing.org/north-carolina)



## Session I Salon E

### *“Where and How to Begin Your Path to Leadership”*

***Angela Bell** joined Naval Air Systems Command at the Fleet Readiness Center East in June 1998. She is currently serving in a temporary assignment as the Logistics and Engineering Support Thread lead in support of Naval Aviation Enterprise Sustainment Vision 2020. Throughout her comprehensive career, Bell has been active in supplementary endeavors across the NAVAIR spectrum.*



*She served in a leadership role the Executive Diversity Community as a member of the Women’s Advisory Group. She has been engaged as a professional mentor with junior engineers. She is also a frontrunner for diversity recruitment serving on special boards and constant participation in national hiring events. Other personal undertakings include various engagement in support of STEM education outreach initiatives with area schools and educational entities.*

*She continues in the way of personal enrichment through education and professional affiliations. She is currently participating in the NAVAIR Leadership Development Program. She completed the Executive Leadership Program through Graduate School USA. She is also a member of the Society of Women Engineers.*

*Bell earned a bachelor of science degree in aerospace engineering from N.C. State University. She is also a wife and mother, and was raised in North Carolina.*



***Felix Torres**, joined Naval Air Systems Command at Fleet Readiness Center East in August 2012. He is currently serving as a Joint Engineering Training Team program manager in the Research and Engineering Group. His contributions of ensuring a professionally developed engineering workforce garners industry acclaim for the command in supporting Navy and Marine Corps fleet readiness.*



*He is currently serving in a leadership role in the Executive Diversity Community as a NAVAIR site lead for the Hispanic Engagement Action Team. He actively participates in diversity recruitment events serving on special boards and local and national hiring events. He is engaged as a professional mentor with junior engineers.*

*Other personal undertakings include various engagement in support of STEM education outreach initiatives with area schools and educational entities. His passion for public service and previous experience in helping others motivated him to become an engineer in support of the Navy and Marine Corps mission. Torres earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico.*

## Salon D Session II

### *Panel Discussion: “Diverse Engineering Leadership-Creating your Pathway”*



**Nkechi Anako** is a Sr. Application Engineer with Corning Optical Communication division. She works with cross-functional teams comprised of technology, manufacturing, sales and product line management to deliver growth and profitability for Corning’s cable product line. She started her career with Corning Incorporated in 2011 as a Sr. Manufacturing engineer in their Optical Fiber plant in Wilmington, NC, working on applying scientific methodology to solve difficult problems with the development of optical fiber. During her graduate studies, Nkechi served in the Education field as a sixth grade mathematics teacher.

Nkechi is a true champion of workplace diversity and inclusion and is actively involved in Corning’s Diversity Network in recruiting and retention. She’s also a member of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE). Nkechi serves as a mentor for middle school students interested in engineering and led efforts to begin a STEM initiative known as “Introduce a Girl to Engineering” while in Wilmington. The initiative was focused on current Corning employees donating their lunch hour once a week to participate in hands-on engineering activities with middle school girls. Nkechi holds a Master’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University and a Bachelor’s of Science in Chemical Engineering from the City College of New York. She currently lives in Charlotte, and is heavily involved in her community.

CORNING



**Jay Joshi** is a Product Line Manager within the Optical Communications division of Corning Incorporated. He is also a member of the company's rotational leadership development program, known as LEAD. In May 2017, Jay completed his MBA from the Johnson Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. Prior to Johnson, he worked as an Analyst at J.P. Morgan Private Bank. He evaluated and recommended investment and wealth management solutions to high-net-worth clients, helping to protect and grow their wealth across generations. Jay graduated magna cum laude from Arizona State University in May 2012 with degrees in Economics and Finance, as well as certificates in International Business and Honors Business Consulting.



**Carl Smith**, Plant Operations Manager, Newton Cable Plant. At 32 years with Corning and counting, Carl Smith has built a lifelong career working in Optical Fiber and Cable. He is currently Plant Operations Manager at our Newton Cable Facility. He brings a variety of experiences to this role as he has held numerous roles in manufacturing leadership, engineering and projects across both North Carolina and internationally. Carl holds a Mechanical Engineering degree from South Carolina State College. He and his family, his wife Teresa and daughter Brianna, have called Wilmington home for many years, and enjoys home improvement as one of his hobbies.



**Eliana Toro** graduated from Clemson University in May 2017. She received a bachelor in science in Chemical Engineering. She is originally from Colombia, SA and move to the states back in 2006. While at Clemson, she was highly involved in the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE), where she gained leadership experience, as the chapter’s president. She joined Corning Optical Communications (COC) right after college; where she participated in the BRiTE Commercial Rotational Program for a year. After the program, Eliana, joined Engineering Services as a Field Engineer.

## Salon E Session II

### *SME Panel Discussion Featuring*

**Dianne Chong**, PhD, FSM<sup>®</sup>E, was the vice president in the Boeing Research and Technology organization in the Boeing Engineering, Operations and Technology organization.

*In this position, she led special projects that impacted processes and program integration for the Boeing Enterprise. Prior to this, Chong was the vice president of materials, manufacturing, structures and support in the Boeing Engineering, Operations of Technology organization. In that role, she led the organization responsible for development and support of manufacturing processes and program integration for the Boeing Enterprise.*

*Chong is a member of TMS, AIAA, ASM International, SME, SWE, Beta Gamma Sigma and Tau Beta Pi. She has also been a member of the National Materials Advisory Board, served on the board of trustees, is a fellow of ASM International, and in 2007-08, served as the president of ASM International. Chong is currently serving on the SME Board of Directors and is a fellow of SME.*

*Chong received her bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology from the University of Illinois. She also earned master's degrees in physiology and metallurgical engineering. In 1986, Chong received her doctorate in metallurgical engineering from the University of Illinois. She also completed an executive master of manufacturing management at Washington University. Chong has been a SME Member since 1997.*



**Tony Donato**, Product Development Engineer. Harper Corporation of America. 2018 makes 44 years of Industrial and manufacturing equipment experience having titles from Industrial and Manufacturing engineer, Plant and Facility engineer, Production supervision, Manufacturing manager, Plant manager, VP of Manufacturing, Application Engineer, Product manager and Product Development engineer. Starting in 1990 brought him into the packaging, tag and label and corrugated box printing segments has put him in press rooms of Flexographic and Gravure printers of as a student and a teacher.



*With degrees from Purdue (2-AAS's and BS) and Winthrop Universities (MBA) and training in TQM, ISO and environment compliance and 2011 became FIRST Certified and renewed in 2015 by the Flexographic Technical Association (FTA) as an Implementation Specialist. He is a board member of the Phoenix Challenge Foundation and is on several different educational advisory committees including in 2016 joining the FTA Scholarship committee.*

*A publisher of several articles relating to printing equipment and its application. He has been a speaker at both FTA and GAA (Gravure Association of the Americas) conferences. In 1988, he became a member of SME and joined TAPPI Technical Association of the pulp, paper & converting industry) in 1999.*

### *Cristina Yanez, Moderator for Corning Panel*

*Ms. Yanez is a visionary leader with an emphasis as an innovative thinker. Her strong analytical and abstraction skills with expertise in applying and understanding the business to ensure companies take full advantage of the latest technology. Ms. Yanez has experienced working at Acceleration Labs, development, innovation, disruption and strategy definition, problem solving and approach for different clients/sectors.*



*Ms. Yanez has been a Global, Senior Manager with experience working in Latin America, Europe and U.S. Ms. Yanez enjoys working with people from all cultures and backgrounds. Her career is vast and diverse working in several industries; Airlines, Logistics and Distribution, Energy, Entertainment, HR, Teleco, among others. Ms. Yanez holds a Bachelors in Computer Science and a Masters in Artificial Intelligence.*

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**“Be a first-rate version of yourself, instead of a second-rate version of somebody else”**  
- Judy Garland

### *Sherman Mumford, Moderator for SME Panel*



*Mr. Mumford is Associate Director of Engage ME, the multicultural engineers support program for underrepresented students. Sherman earned a bachelor's degree in Engineering Technology from UNC Charlotte where he was honored as a Ronald McNair Scholar and Tau Alpha Pi national honor society member.*

*Sherman has also earned a master's degree in Engineering Management from Eastern Michigan University. Prior to returning to UNC Charlotte, Sherman worked in engineering and manufacturing for over 20 years, served as an adjunct college instructor, and was a small business owner.*

*Some of Sherman's professional achievements include; certifications as a manufacturing engineer, quality engineer, and enterprise integrator. Sherman is a life member of the National Society of Black Engineers and is an active member in the American Society for Engineering Education and SME. He regularly advocates for engineering and engineering technology education by serving on advisory boards, performing STEM outreach and volunteering with several youth organizations.*

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**Corning** ([corning.com](http://corning.com)) Nearly 50 years ago, Corning's invention of the first low-loss optical fiber for communications was a breakthrough that helped fuel the Information Age. Today, Corning fiber represents one-third of the approximately 3 billion kilometers of optical fiber that is deployed around the world to enable the global expansion of broadband connectivity. Corning's optical communications products and services are uniquely positioned to meet tomorrow's bandwidth demands for mobile devices, the increasing need for constant connectivity, and the growing volume of data being transmitted around the globe. When combined with Corning's many other glass innovations, these optical solutions enable what we at Corning call The Glass Age. We are proud to be its pioneer. Corning Optical Communications is a worldwide provider of fiber optic communication solutions for voice, data and video networks, with sales in 2017 of \$3.5 billion. It operates fiber manufacturing plants in Wilmington and Midland, and cable manufacturing plants in Winston-Salem, Hickory and Newton. Its new global headquarters in Charlotte's Riverbend Village will open in 2019. All told, Corning Incorporated employs more than 4,000 people in North Carolina across its Optical Communications and Life Sciences divisions, making North Carolina the company's largest U.S. employment center after New York State.

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## **Thank You**

**Sealed Air Corporation** ([sealedair.com](http://sealedair.com)) is a dedicated, through-leadership company that has approximately 15,000 employees serving customers in 122 countries. In 2017, Sealed Air generated \$4.5 billion in sales and is continuing to grow. Recently relocated, the Fortune 500 company's Global Corporate Headquarters is in Charlotte,. Anchored by brands such as Cryovac® and Bubble Wrap®, Sealed Air provides solutions that enable a safer and less wasteful food supply chain and protect valuable goods shipped around the world. We Re-imagine™ the possibilities. By blending our deep industry expertise, material science and equipment experience with growing digital technologies, we offer new value and perspective while delivering measurable results. Together we can Re-imagine the solutions that will provide a safer, more sustainable world for all.

**Society of Manufacturing Engineers** ([sme.org](http://sme.org)) **SME STANDS FOR MANUFACTURING**  
For nearly a century, SME has supported manufacturing and solved its challenges – advancing technology development and implementation, training the manufacturing workforce, inspiring the next generation of innovators, and promoting the importance of manufacturing to global economies, communities, and workers.

**Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) [Charlotte Chapter 182](#)**  
*Meeting Info. and Future Events [sme.org/north-carolina-chapters](http://sme.org/north-carolina-chapters)*

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**Mission:** We provide quality educational experiences, and discover and disseminate knowledge that serve the citizens and industries of local, national and international communities.

**Our college** offers a variety of programs and services designed to assist students and alumni in their professional development. Our hope is that students will take advantage of the many opportunities to learn about the world of engineering, network with professionals, and hone their professional development skills.