

# WIC Executive Committee Elections

## Descriptions of Nominees

### Vice Chair / Chair Elect

- Ida Chen
  - I am a Research Fellow at the Dow Chemical Company. My vision of WIC of AIChE is to stimulate and motivate women to achieve full potential in careers as engineers and leaders, expand the image of the engineering profession as a positive force in improving the quality of life, and demonstrate the value of diversity. I also like WIC of AIChE to be recognized as a global, inclusive organization, promoting diversity and inclusion and serving women engineers wherever they are.
- Juliana Yang
  - As a proponent of women in STEM, I hope to become more involved with WIC and communicate more frequently with the community beyond the seasonal e-newsletters sent out near the AIChE meetings. I would like to recreate the e-newsletter to provide biweekly or monthly content that supports the personal and professional development of women in chemical engineering at all levels of their career. I am experienced in content curation for e-newsletters as well as managing social media platforms through current and previous roles in public relations for campus organizations and look forward to contributing my skills to grow the WIC community. Additionally, I'd love to start a podcast for WIC through which members can share their stories with the broader AIChE community and inspire the next generation of WIC.
- Caroline Szczepanski
  - My first academic conference was the 2008 AIChE annual meeting in Philadelphia as an undergraduate. Since then, I have considered AIChE as my primary professional organization and have enjoyed the community it fosters. Over the past few years, I have found the annual programming of WIC (networking breakfasts, keynote speakers, etc.) particularly valuable and invigorating. I, like many others in this community, have limited opportunities to network with other women chemical engineers in my immediate work environment. Therefore, I recognize the critical role WIC plays in fostering valuable professional relationships, establishing a community where challenges facing our members can be openly discussed, and advocating for our members who are too often overlooked because of biases.  
During 2022, I served as the Fall Programming Chair of WIC. In addition to organizing our traditional Fall Meeting events (e.g., networking breakfast, poster session), I also launched some new collaborations with technical divisions of AIChE to broaden our programming and reach to AIChE members. If selected as a member-at-large for 2023, I

would continue to support these new collaborations as feedback from these events was overwhelmingly positive. In addition to these activities, I would also use my member-at-large position as an opportunity to participate in other WIC initiatives, such as award nominations and solicitation.

### Secretary

- Ida Chen
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- Marina Tsianou
  - I am a faculty in the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at the University at Buffalo – SUNY with research on design, development, characterization, and applications of molecularly-engineered nanomaterials for better health, or a cleaner environment. I have been a member of AIChE since 1992 (joined as graduate student). I am currently a member of AIChE's Separations Division, Food-Pharmaceutical-Bioengineering Division, Nanoscale Science and Engineering Forum, WIC, and LGBTQ+ & Allies. I have co-organized multiple technical sessions at meetings. I also have leadership experience in AIChE serving as chair of Area 1C, "Interfacial Phenomena", and of 2B "Crystallization-Evaporation", and as Separations (SEP) Division Director. I was recently elected to serve as the 2nd Vice-Chair of the SEP for 2023; following this term I will assume the positions of 1st Vice-Chair and Chair (2025). Diversity is very low in the Separations Division (one of the largest AIChE entities). Based on my extensive involvement in AIChE, I would like to serve and support WIC and its membership as a Member-at-Large. This will give me the opportunity to work with WIC leadership to represent and promote WIC's engagement in a range of activities and initiatives within AIChE. For example, in my capacity as Area1C Chair we initiated with WIC session, "Connecting the dots with industry" (2022) to spotlight female role models. I will leverage my Area1C and SEP involvement to increase the visibility of women in the discipline and foster an inclusive environment. I hope I can be an advocate and advance WIC's interests.

## Communications Chair

- Hannah Zierden
  - After serving with WIC for a year as a member at large, I am interested in increasing my involvement as the Awards Chair or Communication Chair. I would like to see increased involvement with the WIC community throughout the year, with the publication of newsletters, active participation on Twitter, and announcements of achievements by members of AIChE. I see WIC as a great resource to young women in engineering and want to serve in a role that will allow me to further strengthen our ability to mentor and act as community.
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## Awards Chair

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#### Member at Large

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- Rawan Almallahi
  - I am committed to supporting and mentoring students from minority groups in pursuing STEM-related careers specially to create a more diverse future generation of engineers and scientists. Through this particular role, I look forward to being part of creating and growing opportunities for professional development to women in the chemical engineering field as well as expanding my network.
  
- Anuja Tripathi
  - "I am a President's Postdoctoral Fellow in Chemical Engineering at Georgia Tech. My research interests include nanostructured material synthesis, biosensors, and batteries. Graduate school has taught me the value of working in a culturally diverse environment with equity for marginalized genders. Hence, I have been involved with many organizations that help women students with career mentoring and promote awareness about the scholar activities, and mental health for students, young professionals, women and minority chemical engineers. My role has always been to make sure that every student especially student with disabilities, LGBTQ+ community, and racial minorities received an equal opportunity for exceling in their scholarly activities. Moreover, being a career mentor for Women in Science, Education, and Research, I have mentored students to help them with their professional development, and also helped them in their career path, writing reports, troubleshooting their research projects, along with managing my own research

projects. I believe academia and industry sectors must strive to expand diversity with a more inclusive approach – welcoming and embracing different socioeconomic, ethnic, gender groups – and create a broader pool of thought processes. AIChE's commitment to this idea resonates with my desire and responsibility to contribute as a member at large, women scientist, and educator. Given the chance, I would continue my outreach activities, mentorship, promote mental health, and spread awareness of chemical engineering knowledge. I look forward to serving on the 2023 WIC executive committee.

- Caroline Szczepanski
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- Ashley Bird
  - My name is Ashley Bird, and I am a PhD candidate at the University of California, Berkeley. This fall, I attended my first in-person AIChE conference since the pandemic and found a welcoming community eager to provide mentorship and support. The events by WIC provided valuable insight and professional development opportunities. Building a supportive community for underrepresented groups is important to me, so I am really excited to be part of WIC. At my home institution, I have organized an annual departmental breakfast for female-identifying students and postdocs to connect with faculty and discuss anonymously-submitted questions around being a woman in chemical engineering. These discussions provide a space for younger mentees to get advice and ask questions they may not have the opportunity to ask and expand their networks. I also organize a series of coffee chats to continue these small group discussions throughout the year. As a part of WIC, I would work with the team to plan events that are centered around professional development in a supportive environment. Additionally, as a mentor, I have worked with multiple female-identifying undergraduate students. I do my best to uplift them and their work by highlighting their contributions in conference presentations, and they are co-authors on two manuscripts in progress. As committee member, I would

help WIC create events that provide opportunities to advocate and highlight women in chemical engineering, and I am excited to work with the team.

- Julia Vela Ramirez
  - The WIC community is a great space where we can champion, promote, and support women in chemical engineering. My vision for the events for WIC during the Spring Meeting includes creating networking events for partners of different industries, continue to organize joint events with other IDEAL communities, and provide mentoring opportunities for women who are part of or are looking to enter different professional environments. I believe that WIC should continue to have a key role in strengthening relationships between AIChE communities, maintain our efforts to further engage with our members, and design tools to further their professional and personal development.

#### Annual (Fall) Programming Chair

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#### Spring Programming Chair

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