

## 2024 MAC Leadership Candidate Vision Statements

### MAC Chair-Elect (2024)

- Janice Adewuyi
  - In the interest of ensuring that underrepresented groups in chemical engineering have the greatest opportunity to succeed, it's imperative to provide mentorship opportunities and soft skills development. For underrepresented groups of chemical engineering students pursuing an academic career; the ability to access mentorship opportunities is somewhat more organic than for those interested in industry. However, showcasing soft skills such as teamwork, problem solving, communication, adaptability, critical thinking, time management and interpersonal skills are equally important in career advancement particularly in industry. Though I'm not a chemical engineer; as an University of Iowa graduate in pharmacy and Duke MBA; I have over 30+ years of relevant experience in the pharmaceutical industry. As Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) becomes more politicized, it's imperative that we provide our members with a playbook that not only includes supporting scholastic excellence; but also, career-building strategies including expanding our industry partnerships which will provide more opportunities for members to broaden networks to facilitate formation of mentoring, coaching and advocacy relationships throughout their chosen career path. For many years I've been involved with AIChE MAC as both a member and former Secretary because of the phenomenal work this organization has done to ensure that underrepresented groups have an inclusive community that helps them thrive in their career. As Chair-Elect I would continue to support this mission.

### Secretary (2024-2025)

- Raisa Carmen Andeme Ela
  - It is with great honor that I present my self-nomination to become a member of the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) Executive Committee. As an outstanding early-career, female, black, and Hispanic scientist I am inspired to serve this organization and our greater AIChE community to advance the values and mission that ensure the purposeful fostering of a welcoming, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment, where the identity, dignity, uniqueness, originality and scholarly edification of students, scholars, staff, and faculty are valued, highly respected, and supported. I describe myself as a self-motivated, adaptable, passionate, goal-oriented, resilient, and impactful professional. For my CV and more specifics about the goals, skills, awards and aspirations, please visit my personal website ([www.raisaelaphd.com](http://www.raisaelaphd.com)). Apart from being an exceptional, inventive, and determined researcher, I am also highly involved in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Service actions within my residence university and the external communities. My efforts have been recognized and positioned me as a winner of two prestigious awards, The Janice Lumpkin Travel Award, by the Minority Affairs Community in the American Chemical Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), and the Diversity, equity, Action, and Service (IDEAS) Award, in the department of chemical engineering and materials science at the University of Minnesota. As well as being

featured in a local magazine, Voyage Minnesota. I am convinced that my skillset and passion make me an ideal candidate for the Executive Committee of MAC.

#### **Fall 2024 Programming Chair**

- Claribel Acevedo-Velez
  - My first experience within AIChE was at the 2005 Annual Meeting, as an undergraduate student at the University of Puerto Rico-Mayaguez (UPRM). I had the opportunity to present my research project at the MESD Annual Student Poster Competition; my poster was awarded first place. This experience marked a pivotal moment in my undergraduate journey and provided a foundation for my career.

Participating in AIChE National Meetings has been key in my professional development. Therefore, I am honored to be considered for the role of Fall 2024 Programming Chair. Over the past years, I have served as session chair and co-chair in Engineering Sciences and Fundamentals, Interfacial Phenomena (Area 1C). I am enthusiastic about leveraging this experience in MAC's programmatic activities. My primary objective is that MAC programming continues supporting our community's goals to increase diversity in our profession and broaden participation of fellow AIChE members as allies to our community to expand its impact.

Moreover, I believe that early career scientists, particularly students, should be encouraged to participate in activities that foster their professional growth and career aspirations. As part of my commitment to support early career underrepresented minorities in our profession, I take pride in mentioning that my mentorship has guided several of my undergraduate research students at UPRM towards achieving national awards such as the NSF-GRFP. I look forward to the opportunity to serve MAC and its members and to contribute to the development of a diverse and inclusive community that strengthens the STEM workforce.

#### **Scholarship Review Chair**

- Subramanian Ramakrishnan
  - I am committed to the research and education of minority students at FAMU and in the AIChE community. I am the director of the NSF funded center which has 15 domestic African American and Hispanic PhDs. I have initiated a number of efforts at FAMU and would like to get involved in activities at AIChE to help students out. Getting deserving students a scholarship is a nice way to help them present their work at the annual meeting and I will be happy to help out.

#### **Communications Chair (2024-2025)**

- Tianxing Cai
  - My vision is to empower and amplify the voices of underrepresented individuals in the field of chemical engineering with my unwavering commitment to this vision. I envision a community that values diversity in all its forms. We will actively seek out and celebrate the contributions of underrepresented groups within AIChE, ensuring that every voice is heard and every perspective is valued. I am dedicated to recognizing the outstanding

achievements of our community members. We will celebrate excellence and innovation while striving to create equal opportunities for all deserving individuals. I will promote clear and accessible channels of communication. Our community members will be informed about opportunities, resources, and initiatives, ensuring everyone can participate and benefit. I aim to facilitate personal and professional growth by providing tailored resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities. Our members will have access to the tools and guidance needed to excel in their careers. We will actively collaborate with other AIChE committees and external organizations to extend our impact and share our vision of diversity, equity, and inclusion. I aspire to create a community that not only supports our current members but also inspires future generations to pursue careers in chemical engineering. We will engage with educational institutions and outreach programs to promote diversity in STEM fields. Together, we will transform the AIChE MAC into a dynamic, diverse, and inclusive space where every member feels valued and has the opportunity to thrive. Our collective efforts will help shape a more equitable and representative future for chemical engineering.