

Chair Line

Chair	Chair-Elect	Vice-Chair	Secretary-Treasurer
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HIGHLIGHTED IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

- 2025 DNP Elections

Future Deadlines:

- **23 October 2025:** Deadline to submit abstracts to the 2026 Global Physics Summit in Denver
- **10 November 2025:** Deadline to vote in the DNP Election

I. 2025 DNP ELECTIONS

The terms of the officers and four members of the current Executive Committee will expire in March 2026. The installation of officers will take place at the DNP Business Meeting at the Global Physics Summit in 2026. Jim Napolitano will become Past-Chair, Nadia Fomin will become Chair, and Helen Caines will become Chair-Elect. Heather Crawford, Sofia Quaglioni and Paul Reimer will remain members of the Executive Committee in 2025. Dean Lee will retire as Past Chair and Lee Bernstein, Kelly Chipps, Daniel Phillips and Jaime Kartheim will retire from the Executive Committee.

A Vice Chair, Division Councilor, and four members of the Executive Committee (one Early Career member) are to be elected. Regular Executive Committee terms are two years while the Early Career member serves one year. The Division Councilor serves a four-year term.

The 2025 Nominating Committee consists of Grigory Rogachev (Chair), Kelly Chipps (Vice Chair), Jocelyn Reed, Matthias Schindler and Kent Paschke. The candidates selected by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Executive Committee are:

Division Councilor (one position)

Haiyan Gao (Duke University)

Sherry Yennello (Texas A&M University)

Vice-Chair (one position):

Jeff Blackmon (Louisiana State University)

Evangeline Downie (George Washington University)

Executive Committee (three positions)

Sergio Almaraz-Calderon (Florida State University)

Jozef Dudek (William & Mary)

Dipangkar Dutta (Mississippi State University)

Karsten Heeger (Yale)

Dennis Perepelitsa (University of Colorado, Boulder)

Andrea Richard (Ohio University)

Executive Committee Early Career (one position)

Heather Garland (Pacific Northwest National Laboratory)

Son Nguyen (Washington and Lee University)

Candidate bios and statements are given later in this newsletter.

All DNP members with an email address registered with the APS should receive an email inviting them to vote electronically. If you do not have a registered email address or the email to your address bounces, you can opt to receive paper ballot package by post. If you prefer a paper ballot package, please contact SBS Support at (866) 909-3549 or by email at support@directvote.net.

II. CANDIDATE STATEMENTS AND BIOGRAPHIES

NOMINATIONS FOR DIVISION COUNCILOR (vote for 1)

HAIYAN GAO:

Statement: Communications play an ever-important role whether they are in the form of disseminating scientific discoveries, technological breakthroughs to the public or keeping the nuclear physics community informed of the APS' activities on science, policy, engagement with the public, and trend and development impacting the nuclear physics and the broad physics community. The division councilor has an important role to play, serving as the communication bridge between the APS Council of Representatives and the DNP executive committee, through which the entire nuclear physics community. As a councilor representing the DNP on the APS council, I will do my best providing an effective link between the DNP and the APS.

Bio: Haiyan Gao is the Robert C. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Physics at Duke University.

She received B.S. in physics from Tsinghua University in 1988 and Ph.D. in Physics from the California Institute of Technology in 1994. She was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign from 1994 to 1996 prior to joining the Argonne National Laboratory as an Assistant Physicist. She was on the faculty at MIT from 1997-2002 before she joined the physics faculty at Duke in 2002 and became a full professor in 2008. Her research interests cover nucleon structure, searches for QCD exotic states, fundamental symmetry studies at low energy, and polarized gas targets. She was the Chair of the Duke Physics Department from July 2011 to December 2014, and the founding Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at Duke Kunshan University from January 2015 to June 2019. She was the Associate Laboratory Director for Nuclear and Particle Physics at Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) from June 2021 to June 2024. She was named a fellow of the American Physical Society (APS) in 2007. She chaired and co-chaired many workshops and conferences and has served on many committees and advisory panels, including the executive board of the APS, the executive committee of the Division of Nuclear Physics (DNP) of the APS, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee on U.S.-Based Electron Ion Collider Science Assessment, the 2015 and 2023 Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC) Long Range Plan (LRP) Writing Committee, and the program advisory committees at Jefferson Lab, BNL and Mainz University. She chaired the international spin physics committee (2017-2021), and the DNP Executive Committee from April 2023 to April 2024. Currently, she is on the editorial board of the Physics Letters B.

SHERRY YENNELLO:

Statement: The DNP is the heart of the US nuclear physics community. In 1966 the founding charter said “The objectives of the Division shall be to assist the advance and dissemination of knowledge of nuclear physics.” In the current bylaws the “application of knowledge of nuclear physics” has been added to the objectives of the DNP. While not explicitly stated in the bylaws, attracting and mentoring the next generation of nuclear physicists is an important role for the DNP. The annual DNP meeting is the premier venue for exchange of information; exciting new science is presented; collaborations are formed; and scientific networks are expanded and reinforced. Additionally, the DNP meeting is often the venue for many young scholars to give their first professional presentation. The CEU is a tremendous asset to attracting young scholars into the field. In order to encourage these bright young people to become engaged and pro-

ductive members, the DNP needs to do all that it can to help promote nuclear physics as a field and the education of the next generation of physicists. This means advocating for appropriate funding to keep our facilities and physics research at the forefront (in the world? In the country?), because “If you build it they will come” does not just apply to baseball. This means clearly communicating nuclear physics to people from students to senators and seniors, because appreciation will only come with understanding. This means intentionally reaching out to all segments of our population, because utilizing the full pool of available talent is critical to our future. This means curating an environment where everyone is welcomed and supported to thrive to their full potential, because it’s the right thing to do. I am honored to have been invited to stand for election to be the APS Counselor for the Division of Nuclear Physics. If I have the privilege of serving you in that capacity, I will work to ensure that the DNP is well represented within the APS and that the APS has a balanced and effective approach toward achieving all of our goals.

Bio: Sherry J. Yennello is University Distinguished Professor, Regents Professor of Chemistry, Director of the Cyclotron Institute, and holder of the Bright Chair in Nuclear Science at Texas A&M University. Yennello also serves as Director of the Texas A&M Nuclear Solutions Institute and the NNSA Center for Excellence in Nuclear Training And University-based Research. A fellow of the American Chemical Society (2011), the American Physical Society (2005), and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (2013.) Yennello’s many awards include the ACS’s Glenn T. Seaborg Award for Nuclear Chemistry (2021), ACS’s Francis P. Garvin-John M. Olin Medal (2011), Southeastern Universities Research Association Distinguished Scientist Award (2023), the Texas A&M Women’s Faculty Network Outstanding Mentor Award (2010), The Texas A&M Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Teaching at both the university and college levels (2012 and 2008, respectively), the Texas A&M Association of Former Students Distinguished Achievement Award in Administration (2019), The APS Division of Nuclear Physics Mentoring Award (2017), the Sigma Xi National Young Investigator Award (2000), The NSF Young Investigator Award (1994), the Oak Ridge Junior Faculty Enhancement Award (1993) and the General Electric Faculty for the Future Award (1993). Yennello has a history of service to the APS, chairing the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics and serving on the Nominating Committee. Yennello’s experience in DNP leadership includes the DNP Chair line, Executive Committee, the Pro-

gram Committee, the Fellowship Committee, the Nominating Committee (chair), Education Committee (chair) and the Mentoring Award Committee. Additionally, Yennello chaired the Committee of Visitors for the DOE Office of Nuclear Physics and served on the NSF Committee of Visitors for the Physics Division. She has served on the NSAC Radioactive Ion Beam Task Force, Subcommittee on Education and the 2007 and 2023 Long Range Plan Working Groups. Yennello currently serves on the IUPAP Commission on Nuclear Physics. Yennello earned her PhD from Indiana University in 1990. Her research on the nuclear equation-of-state impacts such fundamental question as, “What is the origin of the elements?” and “How are neutron-rich and heavy nuclei synthesized in the core of a star during stellar evolution?” Her areas of interest include equity and access to education and professional advancement for all, including both creating opportunities and motivating students to take advantage of opportunities that are available.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIR (vote for 1)

JEFF BLACKMON:

Statement: The APS Division of Nuclear Physics has long been a strong advocate for nuclear science, education, and sound science policy, giving our community a clear and collective voice. We recently came together to formulate a long-range plan for a New Era of Discovery that provides a compelling framework for advancing nuclear science and developing the next generation of talent. We have also built effective partnerships with our sponsoring agencies that strengthen the case for our science. Today, basic science and higher education face exceptional challenges, including skepticism from some policymakers and parts of the public, and as well as increasing pressure on university research and educational programs. Supporting and cultivating scientific awareness has never been more vital. Meeting these challenges requires us to deepen collaboration, support one another, and demonstrate the societal value of our research. This must be a community effort, building on the ideas and enthusiasm of DNP members while also ensuring that APS provides the support our community needs. I am committed to these goals and to improving our communication efforts. I believe the DNP can provide better support to the membership to help them engage more effectively with the public to share the excitement and impact of their work. Additionally, one of my top priorities is professional development. While DNP has always valued career support, I believe we can go further in expanding opportunities, which have previously been primarily coupled to our annual meetings. At LSU, for example, we have partnered with

the Erdős Institute to broaden opportunities for early-career scientists, and we have launched initiatives to help mid-career faculty grow into leadership roles. Rapid developments in artificial intelligence, machine learning, quantum computing, and nuclear energy technologies are creating new opportunities for research and growing connections beyond basic science. Strengthening interactions with the public and industry can broaden support for our field and help create new training and career opportunities for students and early-career scientists. I previously served on the DNP Executive Committee, the Program Committee, and as Chair of the National Nuclear Physics Summer School Committee. I am honored to be considered for the DNP chair line, and if elected, I will work in every way I can to advance the interests of our community.

Bio: Jeff Blackmon received his Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1994. He spent the next 12 years (as a postdoc, then research staff member) developing an experimental nuclear astrophysics program at the Holifield Radioactive Ion Beam Facility at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where he was awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. He joined the faculty at Louisiana State University in 2007 and was named Russell B. Long Professor of Physics in 2014. He studies nuclear reactions and decay properties that are important for astrophysical phenomena and other applications at both national user facilities and ARUNA (university-based) laboratories. He specializes in developing new experimental techniques, especially for measurements with radioactive ion beams. He also studies beta decay and neutron capture using total absorption spectroscopy techniques. He was named APS Fellow in 2012. Since 2020 he has been Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at LSU, with 45 tenure/tenure-track faculty, about 125 graduate students, and over \$10M in annual research expenditures. His leadership in diversity and engagement at LSU includes developing an annual departmental climate survey and institutionalizing a standing Engagement and Innovation Committee (originally the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee). He was a 2024-2025 Fellow in the Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program. He currently is an organizer for the “Academy of Scholars as Leaders” Program that was started in 2024 to provide career development for mid-career faculty at LSU. His service to the scientific community includes serving as chair of the Local Organizing Committee for the 2022 APS DNP Meeting in New Orleans (as well as the 2020 virtual meeting). He was a member of NSAC (2011-2013) and currently serves on the NSAC Subcommittee on International Benchmarking. He has also served on the DOE and NSF Nuclear Physics

Committee of Visitors and on Program Committees for numerous experimental laboratories.

EVANGELINE DOWNIE:

Statement: The Division of Nuclear Physics brings together those working at US National Labs and at other facilities across the US and internationally. It unites theorists, computational physicists and experimentalists, physicists at all levels of their career, and across all institution types. At a time when fundamental science and its funding is under threat, it is critically important that the DNP support our members to work together, encourage and assist each other, and to address these challenges. To do so effectively, we must continue to work to become a more inclusive community, share information beyond the traditional silos, and support our members at all career stages. As part of the DNP Executive Committee chair line I would work to improve communication with and between our members, advocate with APS leadership for the needs of the DNP community, and identify and share resources that can assist the DNP community to navigate the current, challenging environment.

Bio: Evie Downie is a Professor of Physics at the George Washington University. She completed her M.Sci. (2002) and PhD (2007) at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and served as a Carl Zeiss Postdoctoral Fellow at Johannes Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany, before moving to George Washington University in 2012. She has engaged in experiments to investigate the nucleon polarizabilities as part of the A2 collaboration at MAMI, and at the High Intensity Gamma Source at TUNL. She served as spokesperson of the MUon Scattering Experiment (MUSE) at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland for several years and continues to collaborate on the experiment to study simultaneous elastic scattering of electrons and muons on the proton, in both charge states, to address the proton radius puzzle. She has served on the DOE/NSF Nuclear Science Advisory Committee (NSAC), the national chair line of the Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics, and the APS Climate Site Visit Subcommittee, and previously served as a Member-at-Large of the DNP Executive Committee.

*NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(vote for 3)*

SERGIO ALMARAZ-CALDERON:

Statement: The DNP unit of the APS benefits the most when experimentalist and theorist, established researchers, early-career scientist and students, come together as a unit for promoting ideas, engaging people and enhancing the participation

of everyone in the division. As a member of the DNP executive committee, I will be committed to strengthening our field and our community through collaboration, mentorship and belonging. I will work to promote unity and foster engagement across members at all career stages. I believe that we all have a vital role in advocating for the importance of nuclear physics within the broader scientific community and to the society at large.

Bio: Sergio Almaraz-Calderon is an associate professor of physics at Florida State University. He completed his B.S. in physics at the National University of Mexico (UNAM) in 2004. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Notre Dame in 2011. Sergio had a postdoctoral appointment with the Low Energy nuclear physics group in the Physics Division at the Argonne National Laboratory. He then joined Florida State University as an assistant professor in 2015. His main research interests are experimental nuclear astrophysics and the structure of light nuclei.

JOZEF DUDEK:

Statement: In the current environment, it is vital that nuclear physics as a scientific endeavor is presented to the public and to decision makers in government as the vibrant and relevant field that it is. The DNP Executive committee has a important role to play in this, assisting the community by being a visible focal point, active in communication with the funding agencies and other relevant parties. As a member of the executive committee I will advocate for the importance of nuclear physics research performed in universities and national labs, and press for continued and improved interaction between the funding agencies and the community. I look forward to serving the nuclear physics community as a member of the DNP Executive committee.

Bio: Jo Dudek is a professor of physics at the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA. He completed an undergraduate degree in Physics at the University of Oxford in 2001 and received a doctoral degree in Theoretical Physics from the same institution in 2004. After a postdoctoral position in the Theory Center at Jefferson Lab, he became a faculty member at Old Dominion University in 2006, jointly appointed as a Staff Scientist at Jefferson Lab. In 2016 he moved to William & Mary. His staff position at Jefferson Lab ended in 2025. His research interests concern the spectrum of hadrons, particularly the role of exotic combinations of quarks and gluons. He has pioneered novel techniques in lattice QCD to study these states rigorously as resonances. Jo previously served on the DNP Program Committee, on NSAC, and as part of the NSAC Long-Range Plan writing committee. He was appointed as an APS Fellow in 2024.

DIPANGKAR DUTTA:

Statement: The DNP has been my home in the APS for over 30 years, during which I have witnessed firsthand how nuclear physics transforms society. As a first-generation student and an immigrant, I understand how science education opens doors and creates pathways to equity and opportunity. In an era of constrained research funding, the DNP must do more than excellent science—we must effectively communicate both the richness of our research and the value of the workforce we develop. While our community has made tremendous strides in outreach and public engagement, the need for clear, compelling communication has never been more urgent. If elected, I will draw on the collective expertise of our science and engineering communities, along with my own experience, to make a coherent, powerful case for nuclear physics. My goal is straightforward: to ensure the public understands the value of our work and supports its continuation. I am committed to securing a bright future for the DNP and all its members.

Bio: Dipankar Dutta is a Professor of Physics at Mississippi State University (MSU). His research focuses on precision measurements of fundamental properties of nucleons at intermediate energies. The bulk of his research is conducted at Jefferson Lab, and some of his most recent work includes precision measurement of the proton charge radius, a high-precision search for color transparency in nuclei, and probing charge symmetry violation in the quark distributions of nucleons. He received a Ph.D. from Northwestern University (1999). He was a post-doctoral associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (1999-2002) and a research faculty member at Duke University (2003-2006). During his time at MSU, Dipankar has mentored over a dozen graduate students and several post-doctoral scholars. He routinely involves undergraduate students in his research program. He has mentored over 25 undergraduate students in his lab, many of whom have won numerous research awards, including the Goldwater Award and Fulbright Fellowship. In 2021, Dipankar won the Southeastern Conference (SEC) Faculty Achievement Award. Dipankar has served on the Jefferson Lab User Group Board of Directors, where, during his term as outreach director, he doubled and then tripled user participation in the Nuclear Physics Day on the Hill, a congressional outreach event. He has organized and been actively involved in numerous outreach activities at MSU and in the local community. He initiated a bridge program with local HBCUs to help enhance and broaden participation in the physics graduate program. Dipankar has served as a mentor for undergrad students as part of the APS NMC program. He is

on the APS-FEOP, Fellowship committee, and the Nuclear Physics Summer School (NPSS) committee.

KARSTEN HEEGER:

Statement: The 2023 Long Range Plan presents an exciting vision for the future of nuclear physics. This plan outlines opportunities for scientific discovery in the coming decade and emphasizes the broad impact of nuclear physics on addressing some of the nation's critical issues. Quantum information and AI/ML present new opportunities and will shape our field for years to come. At the same time, nuclear physics and science in general face unprecedented challenges. Public trust in science is low, funding for large-scale science is limited, and the next generation of scientists faces great uncertainty. Now it is more important than ever to advocate for nuclear physics in the US, support early-career colleagues, and sustain international collaborations. Throughout my career, I have worked with the APS and various committees to promote nuclear and particle physics, develop long-range and strategic plans for our fields, and help realize scientific opportunities. I have come to appreciate firsthand the importance and strength of international collaborations and the role of early-career researchers in driving us forward. I will collaborate with the APS and the DNP on programs to support and mentor early-career researchers, providing them with a future in our field and fostering a sense of community within our Unit and beyond. International engagement allows us to attract talent and leverage resources to advance cutting-edge science while fostering and promoting international exchange and understanding. As a member of the DNP executive committee, I will work to promote nuclear physics in the US and help advocate for its scientific opportunities. I will leverage my international experience across research fields to emphasize the importance of US nuclear science in an increasingly interconnected and interdisciplinary research environment.

Bio: Karsten Heeger is the Eugene Higgins Professor of Physics and director of the Wright Laboratory at Yale University. He earned his undergraduate degree at Oxford University and received his Ph.D. at the University of Washington in 2002 for the observation of solar neutrino flavor transformation with the Sudbury Neutrino Observatory. He was a Chamberlain Fellow at Berkeley Lab before joining the University of Wisconsin, Madison, as an assistant professor in 2006. Heeger has been at Yale since 2013, directing the Wright Laboratory and serving as chair from 2019 to 2025. His research focuses on the nature of neutrinos mass and neutrino oscillations, and he has been the international co-spokesperson for the CUPID double beta decay

experiment. He served on numerous committees including NSAC, HEPAP, and the APS Committee on International Affairs. He co-chaired the Coordinating Panel for Advanced Detectors and was deputy chair of the 2023 P5. His work has been recognized with an APS Fellowship in 2013, and he shared the 2016 Breakthrough Prize with the SNO, KamLAND, and Daya Bay collaborations.

DENNIS PEREPELITSA:

Statement: During the course of my career, I have come to appreciate that modern nuclear physics research is as much a social practice as a scientific one, shaped by our own set of traditions, collaborations, and a shared culture. The APS Division of Nuclear Physics has been central to this culture, touching nearly every nuclear physicist's career and serving as a major organizing point for our field. Through its meetings, advocacy, and programs, the DNP not only enables cutting-edge science but also articulates and defends our values as a community. Nuclear physicists should be proud of programs like the Conference Experience for Undergraduates, where NP is clearly leading the way among professional scientific societies. Likewise, the Division's consistent advocacy for research funding, education, and professional development has been vital for training the next generation of nuclear physicists. If elected, I will work to ensure the DNP continues to be a strong voice for our community. I am committed to advancing the full diversity of nuclear physics - across institutions (universities, national laboratories, industry), facilities, subfields, career stages, and personal identities - because we will need the full engagement of every member of our community to make progress in our sometimes challenging, but always exciting, field.

Bio: Dennis V. Perepelitsa is an Associate Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. He received his S.B. at MIT in 2008, his Ph.D. at Columbia University in 2013, and was a Goldhaber Distinguished Fellow at Brookhaven National Lab. As a graduate student and post-doc, Dennis received the ATLAS and the RHIC/AGS Thesis Awards, the MIT LNS Lee Grodzins Award, and was a Blavatnik Regional Finalist. As faculty, he received a DOE Early Career Award in 2017 and the Cottrell Scholar Award in 2020. Dennis' research is in ultrarelativistic heavy-ion physics at the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider and the Large Hadron Collider, specializing in jet and photon probes of nuclear collision systems and collective phenomena in small systems. He currently serves as Deputy Spokesperson and Physics Coordinator of the sPHENIX Experiment at RHIC, and was previously a Convener of the Heavy Ions effort of the ATLAS Experiment at the LHC. Dennis has helped to organize the National Nuclear Physics Summer School, APS GHP

Meetings, RHIC/AGS Users Meetings, and major international heavy-ion physics conferences, was involved in the 2023 U.S. Long Range Plan for Nuclear Science "Hot and Cold QCD" town hall process, and serves as a panel and individual reviewer for funding agencies. His proudest career accomplishment has been watching his students and post-docs go on to success in the field, receiving major dissertation awards, prize postdoctoral fellowships and lectureships, high undergraduate Latin Honors, and University-level awards.

ANDREA L. RICHARD:

Statement: The APS Division of Nuclear Physics is the primary professional community for many of us in the field of nuclear science from theoretical to experimental to computational efforts. It functions as a mechanism to bring together people from all career stages to not only provide guidance and coordination on larger efforts but to give a voice to all scientists across the nuclear physics enterprise. Due to my previous service roles relevant to the APS community, such as serving on the Eastern Great Lakes Section, Forum on Diversity and Inclusion, and the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics, I believe I will bring a unique perspective and experiences that will complement the hard work of the current DNP governance. If elected as a Member-At-Large on the DNP Executive Committee, I am committed to strengthening opportunities for students and early-career scientists at DNP meetings (travel support, networking sessions), supporting initiatives that contribute to workforce development, and enhancing communication of nuclear physics research and its societal impact to policymakers and the public to name a few. I appreciate the support of my colleagues and look forward to contributing to the DNP.

Bio: Andrea Richard is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Ohio University. She obtained her B.S. degree in Physics and Mathematics from Muskingum University in 2011 and received her M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio University in 2014 and 2018, respectively. Andrea completed postdoctoral positions at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory at Michigan State University as a Nuclear Science and Security Consortium Postdoctoral Fellow and at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory before joining the faculty at Ohio University in 2024. Her research focuses on experimental indirect neutron-capture constraints for astrophysics and applications using techniques at stable and rare isotope beam facilities. Andrea currently serves on the APS Committee on the Status of Women in Physics and as Chair of the Facility for Rare Isotope Beams Users Executive Committee.

*NOMINATIONS FOR EARLY CAREER MEMBER
(vote for 1)*

HEATHER GARLAND:

Statement: As the Early Career representative to the DNP Executive Committee, I will champion the diverse and unique challenges faced by early-career individuals, drawing on over a decade of experience in this organization as a CEU student, graduate student, and now postdoctoral researcher. My commitment to inclusion goes beyond advocacy—I founded the Gender Minority in Science Social (GeMSS) event, which engaged hundreds of individuals within the DNP Unit in advocacy and community-building. I believe every step forward creates lasting ripple effects toward building a stronger, safer, and more accepting community. I will work to ensure that early-career voices are amplified and empowered to shape the future of the DNP Unit. I am excited to continue to do great work with a focus on action and impact.

Bio: Heather Garland is a postdoctoral research assistant at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), where she conducts cutting-edge research in nuclear physics with applications to national security, forensic science, and emergency response. She earned her B.S. in Physics from Gettysburg College in 2016, followed by a Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from Rutgers University in 2023. During her graduate studies, Heather focused on experimentally constraining neutron capture cross sections of isotopes identified as important to the rapid neutron capture, or r process, through sensitivity studies. Heather joined PNNL in January of 2024. In addition to her academic and professional accomplishments, Heather is also the founder of the Gender Minority in Science Social (GeMSS) event,

which grew from a grassroots initiative into an annual official DNP Unit program.

SON NGUYEN:

Statement: Mentorship has been central in my own journey, and I see it as vital for building a strong and diverse nuclear physics community. As an early-career physicist, I am committed to strengthening for undergraduates and early-career researchers to participate in our programming, gain visibility for their work, and connect with mentors who can help guide their careers. In addition, I believe it is crucial to make them aware of the broad career opportunities in nuclear physics, from academia and national laboratories to industry and beyond. Finally, I am dedicated to expanding support for international scholars, whose contributions are indispensable to the progress of our field. As a member of the executive committee of the DNP, I will work to broaden participation, promote inclusive programming, and foster a welcoming community for the next generation of nuclear physicists.

Bio: Son Nguyen is a Visiting Assistant Professor of Physics at Washington and Lee University. He earned his B.S. in Physics from Nagoya University, Japan, in 2018 and his Ph.D. in Theoretical Nuclear Physics from Duke University in 2023. His research focuses on few-body nuclear physics using lattice and effective field theories, with the goal of advancing our understanding of the strong interaction in nuclei. In addition to his research and teaching, he has served an APS National Mentoring Community mentor and an APS career mentoring fellow, supporting students in exploring and preparing for the broad range of career opportunities in nuclear physics and related field.