

2014 ASEE MIDDLE-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

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How Do We Tackle the Grand Challenge of Enhancing Diversity in the Engineering Professions?

ABSTRACT

The Challenge of Enhancing the Diversity of the Engineering Professions is at a critical juncture. ASEE's Year of Diversity is an optimal time to address this important topic and tackle this persistent problem by understanding the root causes and devising solutions. The speaker will provide a brief synopsis of the current statistics of underrepresented groups in engineering. This will set the groundwork for examining the reasons behind the lack of diversity in the engineering profession from a national and international perspective. In addition, best practices that have been shown to be effective at recruiting a more diverse student body and faculty in engineering will also be discussed. The presentation is expected to be interactive and audience participation is strongly encouraged.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Beena Sukumaran has been on the faculty at Rowan University since 1998 and is currently Professor and Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Under her leadership, the Civil and Environmental Engineering Program has seen considerable growth in student and faculty numbers. Her area of expertise is in micro-geomechanics and has published over 100 peer reviewed conference and journal papers including several papers on engineering education and the unique undergraduate curriculum at Rowan University, especially the Engineering Clinics. She has been involved in various outreach activities to recruit more women and minorities into engineering and is Program Chair of the Women in Engineering Division of ASEE. She is the recipient of the 2011 New Jersey Section of ASCE Educator of the Year award as well as the 2013 Distinguished Engineering Award from the New Jersey Alliance for Action for her work on the field assessment of the damage due to Hurricane Sandy.