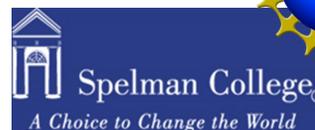


NSF DAY SPEAKERS—From NSF
November 3, 2015
Spelman College, Atlanta, GA



Kamau Bobb

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Kamau Bobb is a program officer on rotation from Georgia Tech where he serves as a liaison to the University System of Georgia (USG) and as the director of the USG system-wide STEM Initiative. Prior to joining the faculty at Georgia Tech, he was a science and technology policy analyst at SRI International where he conducted research on university strategic planning and STEM workforce issues in the United States and in the Middle East. He holds a Ph.D. in Science and Technology Policy from Georgia Tech and M.S. and B.S. degrees in mechanical engineering from the University of California Berkeley.



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Ben Holt is the rotating program director for Plant, Fungal, and Microbial Development and the Evolution of Development. His lab is located at the University of Oklahoma where he uses the plant model systems *Arabidopsis thaliana* and *Brachypodium distachyon* to investigate developmental phase changes (the transition from vegetative to reproductive growth), hormone perception, and the evolution consequences of gene duplication. In his free time, Ben enjoys camping, fishing, drawing, and cooking with his wife and three children.



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Samantha Hunter is a grants policy specialist in NSF's policy office where she is responsible for proposal and award policy review, analysis, interpretation and implementation. She collaborates on the development of the Proposal & Award Policies & Procedures Guide, which integrates NSF's Grant Proposal Guide and the Award and Administration Guide. Samantha conducts various outreach meetings for public and private sector research and grants administration officials. She also serves as webmaster for BFA, with particular focus on the Division of Institution and Award Support. For fun, Samantha is the cheerleading coach for Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

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Karen King

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Karen King is the lead program director of the Education and Human Research Core Research program and the Indicators of Successful K-12 STEM Education initiative year. She serves as executive secretary for the National Science Board's Committee on Education and Human Resources. She most recently served as director of research for the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, the largest professional association of mathematics teachers in the world, serving the U.S. and Canada. She co-edited *Disrupting Tradition: Research and Practice Pathways in Mathematics Education* with William Tate, IV and Celia Rousseau Anderson. She also served as part of the writing team for the revision of *The Mathematical Education of Teachers*, which describes the mathematics teachers need to know and be able to do to be successful in light of the Common Core State Standards.



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Alex Leonessa obtained a doctoral degree in Aerospace Engineering at Georgia Tech in December 1999. His appointment as a faculty member at Virginia Tech started in December 2007, after two previous similar appointments at Florida Atlantic University and the University of Central Florida. In September 2014 he started a rotation at the National Science Foundation, where he is currently supervising the General and Age Related Disability Engineering (GARDE) program, as well as participating to the Major Research Instrumentation program, the National Robotics Initiative, the Partnership for Innovation program, and the Integrative Strategies for Understanding Neural and Cognitive Systems program.



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Susan Mason joined the National Science Foundation as a legislative specialist in 1990, rising to become head of External Affairs in 2000. Among her other achievements, she was director of Congressional relations at the National Archives & Records Administration, Congressional relations specialist at the Civil Aeronautics Board, and early in her career, she produced and directed a monthly, two-hour, live radio program, organized major concerts, and arranged station promotions and contests for KSON AM & FM in La Mesa, CA. As head of External Affairs for NSF, Susan audits and plans strategic communications, as well as develops/produces media programs, media relations initiatives, and communication training programs.

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Laura Namy is the program director for the Developmental and Learning Science Program within the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences Directorate. She is a rotating program officer in her third year at NSF. Her home institution is Emory University. At Emory, Laura is professor of psychology, core faculty in linguistics, and associate director of the Center for Mind, Brain, and Culture. Her research focuses on language acquisition, in particular how learners discern the meaning of new words. She is past editor of the *Journal of Cognition and Development* and is co-author of an introductory psychology textbook.



Claudia Rankins

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Claudia Rankins is a program officer in the Directorate for Education and Human Resources, where she manages the Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Undergraduate Program and the Centers for Research Excellence in Science and Technology. She was a program officer for the Education and Interdisciplinary Research program in MPS' Division of Physics from 2012 to 2014. Prior to joining NSF, Claudia served at Hampton University for 22 years in a number of capacities, including chair of the department of physics, assistant dean for research, and dean of the School of Science. She holds a Ph.D. in Physics from Hampton University and is the co-founder of the Society of STEM Women of Color, Inc.



Lisa-Joy Zgorski

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Lisa-Joy Zgorski is a public affairs specialist and NSF Days lead. Since joining the NSF in 2007, she has received Director's Awards for work with CISE, EHR and the National Science Board. Her other beats have included NSF's International office, SBE, Physics and Astronomy. Lisa-Joy has served as a legislative aide for U.S. Rep. Barbara Kennelly (CT); press secretary for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and (then-gubernatorial candidate) Gov. Dannel Malloy of Connecticut, and as a public affairs specialist in the press offices of Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, the Office of Management and Budget and The Century Foundation. She holds an MPP, Harvard's Kennedy School of Government; a B.A., Mount Holyoke College; and certificates in policy studies, Dartmouth College and the Charles University Law Faculty in Prague.