

Meet Our Panelists

Picture a Scientist Film Screening & Discussion



Kimberly S. Budil, Ph.D.

DIRECTOR, LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB

Director Kim Budil leads a workforce of nearly 8,000 employees and manages an annual operating budget of approximately \$2.7 billion. As Laboratory Director she shares the responsibility, along with the directors of Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories, of providing the U.S. President, through the Secretaries of Energy and Defense, an annual assessment of the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear weapons stockpile, and whether confidence in the stockpile can be maintained without a nuclear test. She is strongly committed to LLNL's tradition of scientific and technical excellence in service to the Nation. Budil has more than three

decades of experience across LLNL's scientific and national security programs.

She most recently served as the Principal Associate Director for Weapons and Complex Integration, responsible for the programs that ensure the safety, security, and effectiveness of the Nation's nuclear deterrent as well as advancing the supporting science, technology, and engineering capabilities. Prior to this, she served as the Vice President for National Laboratories at the University of California Office of the President, where she led the University's oversight and governance of LLNL, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and Los Alamos National Laboratory. She served twice on special assignment in Washington, DC, including as a Senior Adviser to the Under Secretary for Science at the Department of Energy (DOE). She has served on many boards and committees and has been an active champion for diversity, equity, and inclusion at the national labs and beyond. She has M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in applied science/engineering from University of California, Davis where she was the recipient of a Hertz Foundation Fellowship, and a B.S. in physics from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Dr. Budil completed a certificate in national security affairs from the Bush School of Government and Public Policy at Texas A&M University. In 2019 she was named a Fellow of the American Physical Society.



Jason Cruz

SYSTEMS ENGINEER & CHAIR, ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN COUNCIL (APAC), LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB

Jason G. Cruz is a System Engineer supporting Weapons and Complex Integration in the Superblock. In his second year as the Chair for the Asian Pacific American Council, he has worked with the APAC Board in their tireless efforts to support the Asian Pacific Islander community and foster allyship with Lab partners. As a parent to two young daughters, he attempts to instill in them perseverance and resilience to flourish in the world paved by the pioneering female scientists featured in the film.

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Dyrell Foster, Ph.D.

PRESIDENT, LAS POSITAS COLLEGE

Dr. Foster was selected as the new President of Las Positas College and began in February, 2020. He has been an administrator in the California Community College system for over 20 years. He is a student-centered leader, with a proven track record of advancing educational access, equity, student retention and success. He is collaborative in his approach to implementing institutional practices, behaviors, and policies that provide a positive climate on campus and effectively addresses the diverse needs of students. As President of Las Positas College, Dr. Foster is committed to providing strong leadership with a high degree of integrity, passion, and commitment to fully serving our students in a growing and supportive community. Dr. Foster is passionate about cultivating effective partnerships and promoting innovative approaches to enhancing student success outcomes for the students at Las Positas College. Previously, Dr. Foster served as the Vice President of Student Services at Moreno Valley College; Dean of Student Affairs at Rio Hondo College; Associate Dean of Counseling and Director of Student Life at Mt. San Antonio College; Director of Student Life at Evergreen Valley College; and Activities Coordinator at San Jose State University. In addition, Dr. Foster has served as a part-time lecturer in the College of Education at both, California State University, Long Beach and California State University, Fullerton. Being the first in his family to attend college, Dr. Foster received his Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern California, his Master of Science in Counseling: Student Development in Higher Education from California State University, Long Beach, and his Bachelor of Science in Applied Behavioral Science from the University of California, Davis, where he served as co-captain of the UC Davis Aggies football team. He and his wife, Tami, have two young children, Maylea and Daylen.



Monique Warren

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEER, LAWRENCE LIVERMORE NATIONAL LAB

Monique Warren is an Environmental Engineer for the Environmental Restoration Department (ERD) at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) in Livermore, CA. She graduated from the University of Southern California (USC) in May 2014 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with an Environmental emphasis. After graduating from USC, Monique completed a recent graduate internship with ERD before taking a position as an Environmental Engineer with the group. Currently, her work includes investigating, analyzing, and designing environmental treatment processes for soil and groundwater remediation. She also oversees ERD's system for designing and tracking work at all wells on both Sites 200 and 300. In addition to her work with ERD, Monique has served as a co-chair for the African American Body of Laboratory Employees (ABLE), an Employee Resource Group at LLNL. With ABLE, she works to promote communication and cultural diversity throughout LLNL with an emphasis on the issues and interests of black employees. She lives in Stockton, CA, and in her spare time enjoys participating in STEM outreach programs, rock climbing, and playing with her dog Roscoe.

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Jane Willenbring, Ph.D.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, GEOLOGICAL SCIENCES, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Dr. Jane Willenbring joined Stanford as an Associate Professor in the summer of 2020. She is a geologist who solves problems related to the Earth surface. Her research is primarily done to understand the evolution of the Earth's surface - especially how landscapes are affected by tectonics, climate change, and life. She and her research group use geochemical techniques, high-resolution topographic data, field observations, and, when possible, couple these data to landscape evolution numerical models and ice sheet models. The geochemical tools she uses and develops often include cosmogenic nuclide systems, which provide powerful, novel methods to constrain rates of erosion and mineral weathering. Dr. Willenbring has also started to organize citizen science campaigns and apply basic science principles to problems of human health with an ultimate broader impact goal of cleaning up urban areas and environments impacted by agriculture.

Dr. Willenbring received her B.Sc. with honors from the North Dakota State University where she was a McNair Scholar and in the NDSU scholars program. She holds a Master's degree from Boston University. Her Ph.D. is in Earth Science from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia Canada where she was a Killam Scholar. She was a Synthesis Postdoctoral Fellow through the National Center for Earth Surface Dynamics at the Saint Anthony Falls Lab at the University of Minnesota, and an Alexander von Humboldt Postdoctoral Fellow and then subsequently a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Helmholtz GFZ Potsdam, Germany. She was previously an Associate Professor in the Geosciences Research Division and Thomas and Evelyn Page Chancellor's Endowed Faculty Fellow at Scripps Institution of Oceanography, UC San Diego where she was the director of the Scripps Cosmogenic Isotope Laboratory (SCI-Lab). She was also a tenure-track professor at the University of Pennsylvania. She will be a Stanford University Gabilan Faculty Fellow in 2021-2023. She is a Fellow of the Geological Society of America and was the inaugural recipient of the Marguerite T. Williams award from the American Geophysical Union.