



Theme: Academic Transitions

Pathways to an Engineering Degree Panel

				
Tripat Baweja	Abdal Elkhroubi	Huseyin Bostanci	Brenda Kihl	Darrell Smith

Tripat Baweja, Engineering Department, Collin College

Huseyin Bostanci, Mechanical Engineering, University of North Texas

Abdal Elkhroubi, Senior College Recruiter, UNT College of Engineering

Brenda Kihl, Enrollment Division, University of North Texas

Darrell Smith, Division Chair, North Central Texas College

Wednesday, 1:00pm – 2:30pm

Room: K150

Texas' higher education strategic plan to build a talent-strong Texas includes credential attainment and affordability as top priorities. For over 20 years, school districts, community colleges, and universities have implemented initiatives that contribute to these goals. Individually and in partnership, higher education institutions have increased the number of college graduates in Texas. However, gaps remain, and improvements are needed to support students on their path toward a post-secondary credential.

This panel is comprised of university and community college professionals with expertise in improving student outcomes in engineering programs through initiatives such as stackable credentials, innovative curriculum design, academic advising, transfer pathways, dual credit, and articulation agreements. Learn about the secrets to creating successful academic pathways toward an engineering credential and suggestions for future innovation.

About the panelists

Tripat Baweja, Engineering Department, Collin College Tripat Baweja has 13+ years of higher education experience in establishing and expanding STEM programs and classroom teaching. She is the Director of Engineering and Engineering Technology programs at Collin College. She manages Engineering transfer program and 3 workforce programs -Electronic Engineering Technology, Robotics and Automation Technology and Biomedical Equipment Technology. She is an avid promoter of STEM education and

established the first community college chapter of Society of Women Engineers at Collin College. She has mentored and advised many students on various transfer pathways and has been recognized with multiple awards for her efforts in this area.

Dr. Huseyin Bostanci is an Associate Professor and Master's Program Coordinator in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at the University of North Texas (UNT). He serves as the assistant director of the UNT Industrial Assessment Center. He received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Central Florida. He directs the Thermal Management Lab and his research interests are in the broad thermal sciences and energy areas, including high-heat-flux thermal management, microgravity transport phenomena, and Stirling cycle-based energy conversion. Dr. Bostanci authored 50+ refereed journal articles and conference proceedings. He previously worked as a lead engineer for an R&D company and led and actively contributed to projects for the US federal agencies, US military, and prime

Abdal Elkharoubi, Senior College Recruiter, UNT College of Engineering

Abdal is a UNT alum twice over earning his bachelor's and master's degrees at UNT. He began his work at UNT in the Career Center, moving to the College of Arts and Science Advising Office in 2015. He later joined the College of Engineering Advising Office in 2017 for 5 years before moving into his current position as the Senior College Recruiter for the College of Engineering.

Dr. Brenda Kihl is an innovative academic leader with over 24 years of experience in education. She currently serves as the Sr. Associate Vice President of Enrollment Partnerships at the University of North Texas. She started her career as a high school science teacher and has been a higher education administrator at UNT and Collin College since 2001. Dr. Kihl is best known for building collaborative partnerships and creating pathways that result in timely credential and degree completion. She has also provided leadership for higher education innovations including the development of prior learning processes, a multi-institutional university center, organizational efficiencies, workforce development initiatives, and dual credit academies.

Darrell Smith is the division chair of industrial and engineering technology at North Central Texas College. He has over 30 years of industry experience in manufacturing and engineering. He is a veteran of the U.S. Navy where he served as a submarine nuclear engineer. As an educator, Darrell is passionate about students, engineering and workforce development.