



Cross-Sector STEM Equity and Excellence Summit
Hosted By - Lyda Hill Philanthropies and the National Math and Science Initiative
October 24, 2023 | 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm CT

SPEAKER BIOS

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Nicole Small, *CEO, Lyda Hill Philanthropies*
- Shirley Malcom, *Senior Advisor and Director of SEA Change, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*
- Jeremy Anderson, *CEO, National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI)*

Nicole Small, CEO, Lyda Hill Philanthropies



Nicole G. Small has served as CEO of LH Capital, Inc. and Lyda Hill Philanthropies since 2014. Ms. Small is responsible for overseeing the strategic direction of both entities, including their financial and investment activities, as well as their philanthropic initiatives. This involves an exciting array of work ranging from looking at biotech investments that impact cancer to working with conservation NGO's. LHP is committed to finding and funding innovative solutions both in the non-profit and for-profit worlds. As part of her work at LHP, Ms. Small co-founded the IF/THEN initiative which was built to encourage and advance women and

girls in STEM.

From 2001-2013 Ms. Small was the Eugene McDermott Chief Executive Officer of the Perot Museum of Nature & Science where she played a leadership role in the development and opening of the \$200M new museum in 2012. Earlier in her career, Ms. Small held positions including the founder and CEO of a tech start-up, an EIR at a Bay area business incubator, and an analyst with McKinsey & Company.

Ms. Small received a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. She currently is a member of The Dallas Assembly, YPO, Charter 100, UTSW tech transfer advisory committee and IWF. She serves on the Boards of Southwestern Medical Foundation, Communities Foundation of Texas, The Hockaday School, UTSW Presidents Advisory Board, and Texas 2036. Ms. Small resides in Dallas with her husband, two daughters and two dogs.

Shirley Malcom, Senior Advisor and Director of SEA Change, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)



Shirley Malcom is Senior Advisor to the CEO and Director of the SEA Change initiative at AAAS. In her career of more than 40 years at the Association she has worked to improve the quality and increase access to education and careers in STEM as well as to enhance public science literacy. Dr. Malcom is a trustee of Caltech and a regent of Morgan State University. She is a former member of the National Science Board, the policymaking body of the National Science Foundation, and served on President Clinton's Committee of Advisors on Science and Technology.

Malcom, a native of Birmingham, Alabama, received her PhD in ecology from The Pennsylvania State University, masters in zoology from UCLA and bachelor's with distinction in zoology from the University of Washington. She holds 18 honorary degrees. Malcom serves on the boards of the Heinz Endowments, Kavli foundation, Public Agenda and the National Math and Science Initiative. Internationally, she is a leader in efforts to improve access of girls and women to education and careers in science and engineering and to increase use of S&T to empower women and address problems they face in their daily lives. In 2003, Dr. Malcom received the Public Welfare Medal of the National Academy of Sciences, the highest award given by the Academy.

Jeremy Anderson, CEO, National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI)



Jeremy Anderson became the CEO of the National Math and Science Initiative in August 2023. As CEO of NMSI, Anderson leads the organization's strategic partnerships by engaging key education stakeholders to drive the next chapter of growth. Anderson's more than 25 years of policy expertise, including 10 years as president of the Education Commission of the States (ECS), combined with his career-long devotion to educational equity and excellence, help NMSI elevate its mission-critical work in ensuring that all students reach their highest potential.

Anderson brings a wealth of experience from his previous role as president of ECS, a national education policy organization that partners with state policymakers. During his over 10-year tenure at ECS, Anderson grew the organization's staff from 19 to 55 and expanded their policy expertise to better cater to each state's unique needs. He also diversified ECS's revenue sources and fostered a team culture recognized as one of the Top 50 Best Nonprofits to Work For nationally by the NonProfit Times.

Anderson built a strong public service record before joining the ECS in 2012. He has provided strategic leadership on education policy design and implementation through multiple projects with national policy

organizations such as the National Governors Association, Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Conference of State Legislatures. Furthermore, Anderson has held numerous policy and governmental affairs positions, where he has played a vital role in state and federal education initiatives. Anderson's strong passion for education is rooted in his upbringing, raised by two Kansas teachers. His wife is also an early learning educator in Colorado, where they reside and raised their three children.

Panel Discussion

- Moderator: Sam Gill, *President and CEO, Doris Duke Foundation*
- Panelists:
 - Madeline Di Nonno, *CEO, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media*
 - Shirley Malcom, *Senior Advisor and Director of SEA Change, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*
 - Nichole Austion, *Vice President of Public Affairs, National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI)*

Sam Gill, *President and CEO, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation*



Samsher (Sam) Singh Gill is the third president and CEO of the Doris Duke Foundation (DDF), a New York-headquartered, national philanthropic organization that operates five national grantmaking programs—in the performing arts, the environment, medical research, child and family well-being, and mutual understanding between communities—as well as Duke Farms and Shangri La, two centers that serve the public directly.

Prior to joining DDF in April 2021, Gill was senior vice president and chief program officer at the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, where he oversaw more than \$100 million in annual grantmaking across the foundation's programs, in addition to managing Knight's research and assessment portfolio and its grants administration function. Previously, he also served as vice president of Freedman Consulting, LLC.

Gill also served on the board of the Philip and Patricia Frost Museum of Science in Miami and on the Commission on the Practice of Democratic Citizenship, a project of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. He attended the University of Chicago and the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar.

A native of Minnesota, Gill lives in Brooklyn, N.Y., with his wife, Maira Reimão, and their two children.

Madeline Di Nonno, *President and CEO, Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media*



Madeline Di Nonno is the President and CEO of the Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media, the only global research driven non-profit working within family entertainment media to create gender balance, foster inclusion and impede bias. The Institute was recently awarded the prestigious Governor's Award from the TV Academy for its profound, transformational and long-lasting contribution to the arts and science of television. Di Nonno leads the Institute's strategic direction, research, fundraising, and diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Di Nonno is an Executive Producer on the Emmy nominated, television series *Mission Unstoppable* on CBS and the award winning feature film *This Changes Everything*. Di

Nonno has served in Executive leadership positions for Hallmark Channel, Universal Studios Home Entertainment, and Nielsen Entertainment. Di Nonno is a U.S. State Department Specialist Speaker and a speaker at The White House, and the United Nations. Di Nonno has been featured in *Ad Age*, *Fast Company*, *Good Morning America*, *The Guardian*, *The Hollywood Reporter*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Vanity Fair* and *Variety*. Di Nonno holds a bachelor's degree from Boston University. Di Nonno is an appointed Arts Commissioner the Los Angeles County Arts Department. serves on the Board of Directors for the Television Academy Foundation.

Shirley Malcom, *Senior Advisor and Director of SEA Change, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*

See bio above.

Nichole Austion, *Vice President of Public Affairs, National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI)*



Nichole Austion is the Vice President of Public Affairs for the National Math and Science Initiative. As an engineer, a woman in STEM, and a seasoned marketing strategist, Austion has had the good fortune of working with multiple B2B high-profile technology brands to create their big-picture marketing vision and translate it into implementable operational plans. She has purposely shifted her career trajectory to serve organizations that advocate for social justice in education, healthcare, or the criminal justice system. Austion creates marketing and communications strategies that effectively promote mission, brand, and impact and drive purposeful donor investments.

Austion received her bachelor's degree in Computer Systems Engineering from Howard University and her Masters of Business Administration from the University of Texas McCombs School of Business.

Scene Setting:

- Travis York, *Director of Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity and Diversity (ISEED), AAAS*

Travis York, *Director of ISEED, AAAS*

Travis T. York, Ph.D., serves as the Director of Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity & Diversity (ISEED) at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). In his role, Dr. York provides leadership for all of AAAS's externally facing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility initiatives. York's research and work focus on catalyzing and sustaining systemic change and transformation to achieve inclusive and equitable access and progress through STEM pathways into the STEM workforce. Within AAAS, York provides leadership to a talented team who collaborate to create change through dozens of grant-funded projects and initiatives spanning all STEM fields and the entire educational pathway including the STEM Opportunity Alliance – recently launched at the

White House Summit on STEM Equity & Excellence, AAAS's SEA Change Initiative, AAAS S-STEM REC, ARISE Network, Equitable Pathways Project, L'Oreal USA Women in Science Fellowships, and HBCU Making & Innovation Showcase.

Dr. York serves as the Principal Investigator of the AAAS Scholarships in STEM Resources & Evaluation Center (S-STEM REC), AAAS Noyce, ARISE (Advancing Research and Innovation in the STEM Education of Preservice Teachers in High-Need School Districts), and AAAS Improving Undergraduate STEM Education initiative, Equitable Pathways Project, and Catalyzing a Data Infrastructure to Support LGBTQ Inclusion in STEM. York has authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and his most recent article, Completion Grants: A multi-method examination of institutional practice, is available in the Journal of Student Financial Aid. York is active in several professional associations and serves on the editorial review board of the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education.

Dr. York, a native of Charleston, South Carolina, received his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from The Pennsylvania State University, Master's in Higher Education, and a Bachelor's with distinction from Geneva College. York also studied at Oxford University's Keble College in 2003-04.

Keynote Address:

- Dr. France Cordova, *President, Science Philanthropy Alliance (SPA)*

Dr. France Cordova, *President, SPA*

France Anne Córdova is the Science Philanthropy Alliance’s president and ex officio member of its board. She is an experienced leader in science, engineering, and education with more than three decades of experience at universities and national labs. She has served in five presidential administrations, both Democratic and Republican. She is an internationally recognized astrophysicist for her contributions in space research and instrumentation. She has served on both corporate and nonprofit boards, often assuming a leadership position.

Prior to joining the Alliance, Córdova was the fourteenth director of the National Science Foundation (NSF), a presidential-appointed, Senate-confirmed executive position. NSF is an \$8.5 billion independent federal agency. It is the only government agency charged with advancing all fields of scientific discovery, technological innovation, and STEM education.

Through her leadership at NSF, the agency grew by over \$1 billion, strengthened existing partnerships while forging new ones, and launched a strategic framework defined by 10 Big Ideas—promising areas of research for targeted investment. She initiated NSF’s Convergence Accelerator to leverage external partnerships to accelerate research in areas of national importance. To broaden STEM participation from traditionally underrepresented groups, she launched NSF INCLUDES; today seven other government agencies, including NASA and NIH, have joined INCLUDES. She co-chaired with other agency heads several committees of the National Science and Technology Council for the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, including committees on science, education, innovation, and Arctic research. She has spoken before the U.S. Congress and on global stages including the Global Research Council, Arctic Ministerials, and the World Economic Forum.

She is the only woman to serve as president of Purdue University, where she led the university to record levels of research funding, reputational rankings, and student retention and graduation rates. She established a College of Health and Human Sciences at Purdue, as well as a Global Research Policy Institute.

Córdova is also chancellor emerita of the University of California, Riverside, where she was a distinguished professor of physics and astronomy. She laid the foundation for a medical school, California’s first public medical school in over 40 years. As vice chancellor for research and professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Barbara, she led a campus-wide effort to fund and support convergence in blue-sky research.

Previously, Córdova served as NASA’s chief scientist, representing NASA to the larger scientific community. She was the youngest person and first woman to serve as NASA’s chief scientist and was awarded the agency’s highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal.

She has published more than 150 scientific papers. She has been awarded several honorary doctorates, including ones from Purdue, Duke, and Dartmouth Universities. She was awarded the Kennedy-Lemass Medal from Ireland, and the Order of Bernardo O’Higgins from Chile. She is a Kilby Laureate for “significant contributions to society through science, technology, innovation, invention and education.”

Córdova received her bachelor of arts from Stanford University and her Ph.D. in physics from the California Institute of Technology.

Next Steps:

- Michael Feder, *Program Director, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)*

Michael Feder, Program Director, AAAS



Michael Feder, Ph.D., is program director within the Inclusive STEM Ecosystems for Equity and Diversity (ISEED) unit. He manages a portfolio of programs focused on removing systemic barriers to equitable access to STEM education and careers. Dr. Feder brings over 15 years of experience in STEM education policy, research, and practice to AAAS.

Michael's previous experience includes managing Battelle's STEMx network – a consortium of 21 statewide STEM education organizations. He provided strategic opportunities for the network to address grand challenges in STEM through shared solutions and collaborative initiatives. Dr. Feder also served as a policy analyst at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, where he provided the President and senior leaders with STEM education policy guidance. During his two years with the Obama Administration, he led the interagency committee on STEM education, which wrote the 5-Year strategic plan for federal STEM education programs. Prior to that experience, Dr. Feder provided guidance to the federal government, state decision makers, and STEM education stakeholders as a Senior Program Officer for the Board on Science Education at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine. Dr. Feder also has experience in program evaluation and has been published widely on STEM education.

He earned his doctorate and master's degrees in developmental psychology at George Mason University and his bachelor's degree from Pennsylvania State University.

Closing Remarks:

- Christina Symons, *Strategic Partnerships and Communication, LHP*

Christina Symons, Strategic Partnerships and Communication, LHP's IF/THEN Initiative



Chris is a marine geologist and science communicator enthusiastic about sharing her passion for the exploration of our home planet and inspiring future scientists, educators, policy makers and explorers to do the same. Captivated by our vast and under-explored ocean, her research has focused on unraveling the complex tectonic history of the Pacific Ocean basin. As part of her graduate and post-doctoral field work, Chris logged more than two hundred fifty days at sea onboard various research vessels mapping the seafloor, including two days below sea level in the DSV

Alvin and the Navy's DSRV Avalon. An avid proponent of STEM outreach and education, Chris embraced the opportunity to facilitate collaboration between geophysicists, computer scientists and educators to create a digital collection of earth science and classroom lessons designed to bring students on virtual expeditions around the world.

In 2012, Chris was invited to join the DEEPSEA CHALLENGE Expedition during which explorer and filmmaker James Cameron made his historic solo dive to the bottom of the Mariana Trench, the deepest place in our oceans. As the project's Science Coordinator for the next seven years, she synthesized and communicated the scientific results of the expedition's international team of biologists, geologists, oceanographers, and planetary scientists to expedition sponsors - National Geographic and Rolex - and to the public at large. The serendipitous alignment of her STEM-related pursuits and the colleagues with whom she has collaborated led Chris to her most rewarding role yet in support of Lyda Hill Philanthropies' IF/THEN® Initiative. Founded to empower women STEM professionals as role models so that they might inspire young girls to consider careers in STEM, IF/THEN® emboldens future innovators with the simple mantra *If she can see it, then she can be it!*