



Happy New Year!

Last fall we welcomed Dr. Wendy Hill to the Hanson Center [leadership team](#), and convened the Center's Advisory Committee (representing many campus constituencies) in order to guide the Hanson Center's mission to advance inclusive excellence in STEM at Lafayette through (1) support for students and faculty who are minoritized in STEM; (2) promotion of faculty development of inclusive pedagogies, equity-minded interventions, and culturally conscious STEM curricula; and (3) advancement of research and teaching in inclusive STEM Studies. Some brief updates on our activities in the fall 2021 semester:

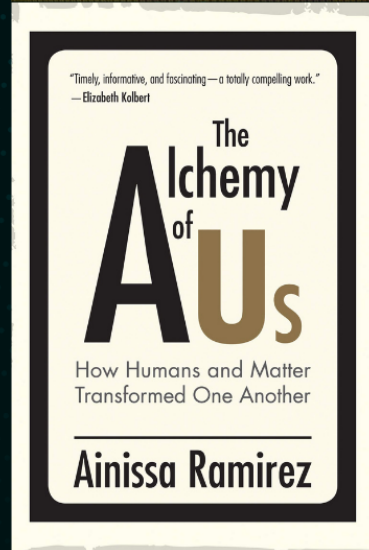
GUEST SPEAKER



AINISSA RAMIREZ

September 28 2021 in Kirby 104 and via zoom

LAFAYETTE
HANSON CENTER
FOR INCLUSIVE STEM EDUCATION



We were thrilled to host Dr. Ainissa Ramirez’s talk for the Lafayette community, “Telling the Whole Science Story,” on [September 28](#). The hybrid event drew 200+ attendees, who described the event as “incredibly engaging,” appreciating the way Dr. Ramirez “combined her passion and scientific knowledge with great storytelling skills.” As one attendee put it, the talk: “showed that science and technology are often done by humans who have families and friends and who live their lives in pursuit of love and happiness just like any other person. That there is no singular definition of what a scientist looks like. That science and technology exist within larger social contexts.” Watch the talk [here](#).

Like so many activities, the annual SPAL (Summer Program to Advance Leadership in STEM) summer transition program was transformed by COVID. This year's one-week program served as a pre-orientation experience for 13 incoming first year students. We're grateful to all the faculty, staff, and administrators who helped welcome these students to campus and offered a range of academic and other activities. This November, the SPAL classes of 2021, 2019, and 2018 reunited for a "friendsgiving" dinner together with conversation, games and community.



**INCLUSIVE
STEM
RESEARCH**



Jenn Rossmann (L) & Mary Armstrong (R), "A New Way of Seeing": Engagement with Women's & Gender Studies Fosters Engineering Identity Development for Diverse Students

BEST PAPER AWARD
2021 ASEE Conference

ASEE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

Jenn Rossmann and Mary Armstrong's STEM Studies research demonstrating the positive impacts coursework in Women's and Gender Studies can have for minoritized STEM students was recognized as the **BEST PAPER** of the 2021 ASEE Conference. Read more [here](#). Rossmann & Armstrong will present their work to the Lafayette community on February 16th at 4pm. Save the date!

Inclusive STEM Studies Spotlight

Several Spring 2022 classes have an Inclusive STEM Studies theme, highlighting the ways science, technology, and society inform and influence each other, with a particular focus on power and privilege, race, gender, and other dimensions of identity. These classes include the new cross-listed course, **EGRS/AFS 220** Race & Technology, along with **A&S 222** Medical Anthropology, **EGRS 281** Historical Studies in Engineering and Society, **EVST 353** Decolonizing Methodologies in Environmental Studies, and **PSYC 226** Human Factors and Engineering Psychology.

Community Conversations

We're excited to have had individual meetings with all STEM department heads and program chairs, and with a wide range of student groups supporting inclusivity in STEM. We also met with a number of faculty, in groups and individually, to learn more about their experiences; these were terrific discussions and are informing our work going forward.



We're currently partnering with multiple departments on climate surveys to provide a baseline sense of the student experience and sense of belonging in these programs. Student group activities range from peer and alumni mentoring to attending national conferences. The Hanson Center seeks to support and partner in these terrific efforts. Are you doing something exciting? *Let us know!*



Upcoming Spring Activities

This spring we'll lead a faculty Reading Group on bell hooks's *Teaching to Transgress*. Sign up [here](#). **SAVE THE DATE** for **Tuesday March 29 at 7 pm** in Colton Chapel, when we'll be hosting two scholars sharing their anti-racism work in social psychology: Drs. Courtney Bonam and Valerie Taylor. And Lafayette's fourth annual "Women in STEM" week is coming this spring – talk to us about program ideas or class tie-ins!

Wishing you a restorative, rejuvenating interim break with the people and activities that nourish you.

Cheers, Wendy & Jenn

<https://hanson.lafayette.edu>
