



Homeland Security

Science and Technology

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VIRTUAL SXSW 2021 // U.S. GOVERNMENT PANEL BIOS // MARCH 18, 2021, 6:00PM CT // 7:00PM ET



DAVID ALEXANDER, PH.D.

DIRECTOR // RESEARCH AND PARTNERSHIPS,
DHS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T)

Dr. David J. Alexander serves as the Senior Science Advisor for Resilience. He also leads the Enduring Sciences Branch of DHS S&T's Technology Centers Division, which focuses on interdisciplinary research across the physical, biological and life sciences to enhance knowledge, advance state-of-the-art, inform investments and drive actions in national threats, hazards and risks. Other programs he has spearheaded in DHS S&T include leading the S&T Flood Apex and Hurricane Technology Modernization programs as well as an analysis of Wildland Fire Operational Requirements and Capabilities in support of FEMA, the U.S. Fire Administration and other key stakeholders. Prior to his role in DHS S&T, Dr. Alexander served as the first appointed Geospatial Information Officer for DHS and as Enterprise GIS Branch lead within FEMA.

Learn more:

<https://www.dhs.gov/science-and-technology/biometric-technology-rally>



DAVID CORMAN

PROGRAM DIRECTOR // CYBER PHYSICAL SYSTEMS
AND SMART AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES,
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

Dr. David Corman is the Program Director leading Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) and Smart and Connected Communities programs for NSF. The CPS program is a cross-disciplinary and inter-agency program and seeks to reveal cross-cutting, fundamental scientific and engineering principles that underpin the integration of cyber and physical elements across all application domains. NSF started the Smart and Connected Communities program in 2016. The goal of this program is to support strongly interdisciplinary, integrative research and research capacity-building activities that will improve understanding of smart and connected communities and lead to discoveries that enable sustainable change to enhance community functioning. The focus here is not simply on cities – but on cities, towns and rural regions.

Learn more:

<https://nsf.gov>



RHONDA BINDA

DEPUTY BOROUGH PRESIDENT // QUEENS,
NEW YORK CITY, NY (MODERATOR)

Raised in Southeast Queens, Rhonda Binda is a visionary leader with a passion for social and environmental justice. In her youth, Rhonda successfully lobbied the New York City Council for New York Public Interest Group (NYPIRG) to shut down Fresh Kills, the largest toxic site in the country. As an attorney, she represented and released wrongly detained clients before the U.S. Immigration Court of Appeals after 9/11 pro bono. In government, she served in both the Obama-Biden and Clinton-Gore Administrations as a U.S. Diplomat and in the West Wing. Under her leadership, Jamaica remarkably rose through the ranks to be named the #1 neighborhood in the city and won #1 awards from the NYC Department of Small Business Services (NYC SBS) and the state for downtown revitalization, raising Jamaica's profile as a unique, vibrant multicultural center for retail and tourism.

Learn more:

info@queensbp.org



LAHNE MATTAS-CURRY

COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR // OFFICE OF
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

Lahne Mattas-Curry is the Communications Director for EPA's Center for Environmental Solutions and Emergency Response (CESER) in the Office of Research and Development. This year, she has been the lead for communications on EPA's SARS-CoV-2 research, the virus that causes COVID-19. Prior to her role in CESER, she has played a critical role in communicating about some of the more challenging environmental problems, including PFAS, which are man-made chemicals that can be found everywhere including in non-stick and water-repellent products. She also has played an integral role in communicating about research related to reducing lead in drinking water systems – a problem that is faced in many communities around the country.

Learn more:

<https://www.epa.gov/healthresearch/research-covid-19-environment>



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