Keynote Speakers

June 9, 2026 (Tuesday)

9:00 – 9:20, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday): Host Welcome Address

Prof. Canan Bilen-Green
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Academic Affairs
Professor, Industrial Engineering
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Dr. Bilen-Green serves as the Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. She has more than 15 years of experience in academic leadership. Before joining UWM, she held multiple vice provost roles at a public land-grant university, where she oversaw areas such as faculty advancement, Title IX and ADA compliance, disability accommodations, international programs, and faculty immigration.

Education
- BS, Statistics, Middle East Technical University, 1991
- MS, Industrial Engineering, Bilkent University, 1994
- MS, Statistics, University of Wyoming, 1996
- PhD, Statistics, University of Wyoming, 1998

Professional Memberships
- American Statistical Association
- American Society for Quality
- American Society of Engineering Educators
- American Society of Women Engineers
- Institute of Industrial Engineers
- Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences
- Phi Kappa Phi
- Women Engineers Proactive Network

9:20 – 10:00, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday): Opening Keynote:

Francisco Sayu
Vice President, Productivity and Sustainability
Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation

Vice President of Productivity and Sustainability Francisco J. Sayu leads WEDC's efforts to support businesses, communities, and people in Wisconsin to take advantage of the economic opportunities the clean energy economy presents.

Francisco has worked in the clean energy sector for more than a decade and has experience in clean energy policy, advocacy, and small business development. Before joining WEDC, he served as emerging technology director at RENEW Wisconsin. Before that, he was program manager for the Focus on Energy® New Construction Solution, a statewide program that helps people and businesses in Wisconsin make informed energy decisions and save money.

Francisco holds a master's degree in engineering and a bachelor's degree in biological systems engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

10:00 – 10:20 - Coffee Break

10:40 – 11:00, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday) - Keynote

Dr. Prasenjit Guptasarma
Associate Dean of Academic
College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM)
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

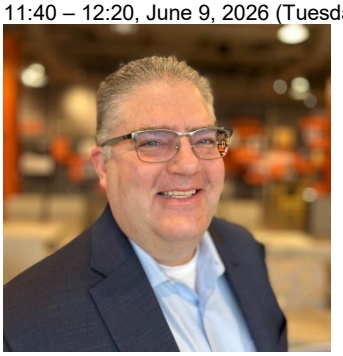
Dr. Guptasarma (PG) is an interdisciplinary researcher whose work spans physics, chemistry, and materials science. As a condensed matter physicist and materials scientist, his research focuses on understanding the fundamental physics underlying unusual electronic and magnetic properties of materials, ranging from large single crystals to nanoscale systems. He earned his PhD from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research after completing his master's degree in physics at the Center for Advanced Research in Physics & Astrophysics, University of Delhi. Among several honors, he received the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award in 2005. Dr. Guptasarma currently serves as the Associate Dean of Academics at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee's College of Engineering & Applied Science. He has authored more than 130 research articles and book chapters and has delivered over 70 invited talks and lectures internationally. He is also an active member of several national and international collaborative research networks.

11:00 – 11:40, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday) – Keynote

Paolo Butti
Regional President, Global Industry
Global Sales & Marketing
Rockwell Automation, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Paolo Butti is regional president, Global Industry in Global Sales & Marketing (GSM) at Rockwell Automation. In this role, he leads the Global Industry sales organization, advancing Rockwell's industry strategies and strengthening our ability to win across the broader ecosystem. He plays a critical role in driving the next phase of Rockwell's strategic sales transformation, with a focus on shaping industry direction and expanding revenue with our most strategic customers. Paolo joined Rockwell in 2012 and most recently served as global vice president of Machine Builder (OEM) Segments and Emerging Industries, where he led a high-performing team of industry and OEM segment directors, as well as large, strategic global account sales teams. With more than 25 years of experience in automotive, robotics, and industrial automation, Paolo brings extensive global expertise and a proven track record of driving growth. He is especially passionate about leading digital transformation in manufacturing. He holds an M.Sc. in electronic engineering from Politecnicodi Milano, completed executive leadership training at University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee, and is certified in Neuro-Linguistic Programming, reflecting his passion for coaching, mentoring, and developing future generations of leaders.

11:40 – 12:20, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday) - Keynote



Jeffrey Wood
VP – Generac Advanced Manufacturing
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Passionate Manufacturing and Supply Chain Operations Professional with experience as a Vice President of Advanced Manufacturing, EHS, and Strategy, and Program Management with a demonstrated history of working in the automotive, electrical and electronics, HVAC, and Generator and Battery Storage industries. Skilled in Operations Management, Industrial Strategy, Supply Chain Sourcing and Development, Lean Manufacturing Implementation, Cost Efficiency, Customer Relationship Management (CRM), and Team Building. Strong operations professional with a Bachelor's Degree focused in Mechanical Engineering from Kettering University.

12:20 – 13:00, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday) - Keynote

Dr. Jag Sarangapani
William A. Rutledge – Emerson Electric Company Distinguished Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO, USA

Dr. Sarangapani is a Curators' Distinguished Professor and Rutledge-Emerson Chair at the Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO, USA. He was the Site Director for the graduated NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center on Intelligent Maintenance Systems for 13 years and an Interim Director for Intelligent Systems Center. He also has a courtesy appointment with the Department of Computer Science. He has co-authored 209 peer-reviewed journal articles as two-author papers, 308 refereed IEEE conference articles, several book chapters, and co-authored five books and two edited books. He holds 21 patents, one defense publication, with several pending. He has supervised the completion of over 36 doctoral students and 32 M.S. thesis students. His research funding is more than $47 million dollars (his shared credit over $13.8 million) from NSF, NASA, AFOSR, ARO, ONR, AFRL, Boeing, Honeywell, Sandia and from other companies. His current research interests include learning, adaptation, neural network decision making and control, networked control systems/cyber physical systems, prognostics/bigdata, and autonomous systems/robotics with healthcare applications. He served/serving on various editorial boards including as a Senior Editor, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems, organizing committees in various international conferences, and as a co-editor for the IET Book series on Control.

16:30 – 17:00, June 9, 2026 (Tuesday) – Keynote

Rear Admiral Dr. Khandakar Akhter Hossain, NUP, ndc, psc, PhD
Vice-Chancellor, Bangladesh Maritime University, Dhaka, Bangladesh

Rear Admiral Dr. Khandakar Akhter Hossain, NBP, NUP, ndc, psc, PhD, was commissioned into the Engineering Branch of Bangladesh Navy on 01 January 1991. He has completed his BSc. and MSc. Engineering in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering with a distinct result from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He also holds PhD from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET). He has performed various instructional duties in Naval Academy, Marine Academy, NIT and Military Institution of Science and Technology (MIST). He was also the Dean/Head (On NAME department/ME Faculty) at Military Institution of Science and Technology (MIST). He has served as member Engineering in Chittagong Port Authority. He successfully performed the duties of Managing Director (MD) in all three shipbuilding heavy industries run by Bangladesh Navy, namely Chittagong Dry Dock Limited (CDDL), Dockyard & Engineering Works Ltd (DEW) and Khulna Shipyard Ltd (KSY). He also performed his duties as Area Superintendent Dockyard of Bangladesh Navy. He is a fellow of different prestigious institutes like IEB(BD), RINA(UK), and IAMSP(USA). Before joining here, he performed his duties in the prestigious post of Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Materiel). He has around 250 international publications/papers on AI, IoT, Robotics, Satellite Communication, ship recycling, shipbuilding, energy solutions, human resource diversification, port operations, and advanced technologies. He is happily married with Dr. Sharmin Hasan and blessed with twin daughters and two sons.

June 10, 2026 (Wednesday)

9:00 – 9:10, June 10, 2026 (Wednesday) - Welcome Remarks: UWM College of Engineering and Applied Science, Former Associate Dean of Academics

Dr. Ethan Munson
Full Professorship
UWM Computer Science Department
Former Associate Dean of Academics
UWM College of Engineering and Applied Science

Dr. Ethan Munson held a full professorship at the UWM Computer Science Department beginning in 1994. He has also held various leadership positions at UWM, including Chair of the Computer Science Department, Director of the Center for Advanced Embedded Systems, and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs from 2015-2022. Dr. Munson received his PhD from the University of California Berkeley. His research interests include Software Engineering, Document Engineering, Human-Computer Interaction, and Software Systems.

9:10 – 10:00, June 10, 2026 (Wednesday) - Keynote

Paul Perkins
President, Amatrol, Inc.
Jeffersonville, Indiana, USA

Paul Perkins is president and co-founder of Amatrol, Inc., a Jeffersonville, Indiana based manufacturer of technical learning systems and online interactive multimedia software for colleges, industry and high schools. Perkins holds a B.S. Degree in Mechanical Engineering Summa Cum Laude from Georgia Institute of Technology, is the author of over 20 books on industrial controls and automation, and has designed numerous training systems for teaching engineering and technical skills. His community service activities include serving as Chair of the Indiana State Workforce Innovation Council, past Chair of the National Governors Association State Workforce Board Chairs Association, and board member of many other national, state and local organization.

10:00 – 10:40, June 10, 2026 (Wednesday) - Keynote

Joe Hamman
Executive Director
UWM Connected Systems Institute

Joe is a senior engineering and technology leader with diverse experience across the engineering value chain. Focused on applying LEAN principles to efficiently drive strategic business objectives in product innovation, product line simplification, value-add / value-engineering, and technical talent development. Expertise building University partnerships to create talent pipelines, catalyze collaborative research and product development, and launch Learning & Development initiatives aligned to broader STEM workforce needs. Technical foundation consisting of advanced competencies in materials science, tribology, statistical designed experimentation, and product / technology development.

10:40 – 11:00 AM – Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:40, June 10, 2026 (Wednesday) - Keynote

Michael Cook
Director, Global Industry-Academia Engagement
Rockwell Automation

Michael Cook is focused on building the digital workforce for advanced automation. As Director of Global Industry-Academia Engagement, he drives strategic partnerships to bridge the gap between education and industry to accelerate digital transformation. With deep expertise in project and risk management, innovation partnering, and team development, Michael helps organizations future-proof their talent pipelines. His work empowers institutions and companies alike to embrace Industry 4.0 through collaborative, scalable workforce strategies. Michael is also advancing the adoption of cutting-edge technologies like OTTO Autonomous Mobile Robotics, helping industry partners modernize industrial operations and inspire the next generation of talent. Passionate about shaping future manufacturing leaders, he remains at the forefront of aligning global talent development with the demands of modern industry.

11:40 – 12:20, June 10, 2026 (Wednesday) - Keynote

Jason House
Business Unit Manager - Mission Readiness & Protective Systems Unit
Northrop Grumman
Chicago, Illinois, United States

Jason House is a seasoned supply chain and operations leader with extensive experience in the aerospace and defense industry. Currently serving as Manager of Supply Chain Programs for Northrop Grumman's Mission Readiness and Protective Systems Business Unit, Jason directs $170 million in annual material and subcontract spend, leading a high-performing team across multiple operating units. His expertise includes strategic supplier management, risk mitigation, and driving alignment of supply chain operations with overall business objectives. Jason's previous roles at Northrop Grumman include leading complex procurement and supply chain initiatives, managing diverse teams of procurement contracting officers, and spearheading cost-reduction efforts in support of major defense contracts. His career highlights include serving as an integrated program team lead at Air Warfare Systems, managing supplier risk assessments, and collaborating with cross-functional leadership to enhance supply chain integration and performance. With a strong technical skill set encompassing ERP as well as deep knowledge of regulatory compliance within FAR and DFARS frameworks, Jason brings a comprehensive approach to supply chain program planning and execution. Jason holds a Master of Science in Industrial Technology with a concentration in Supply Chain Management and a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision, both from Purdue University. As a key figure in advancing supplier strategy and operational excellence, Jason House is recognized for his ability to drive innovation and deliver results in complex defense supply chains. He will be sharing his insights on supply chain optimization and leadership at the 11th North American Conference on Industrial Engineering and Operations Management.

12:20 – 1:00, June 10, 2026 (Wednesday) - Keynote

Dr. Anthony Rollett
U.S. Steel Professor of Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science and University Professor, Materials Science and Engineering
Co-Director of the NASA STRI IMQCAM and the NextManufacturing Center
Carnegie Mellon University
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Anthony Rollett has been a member of the faculty at Carnegie Mellon University since 1995, including five years as materials science and engineering department head. He became the US Steel Professor of Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science in 2017 and a University Professor in 2024. He is the PI and co-director of the Institute for Model-Based Qualification & Certification of Additive Manufacturing (IMQCAM), which is a NASA-supported Science Technology & Research Institute. He is also the co-director of the Next Manufacturing Center on additive manufacturing.

Previously, he worked at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. There, he was group leader of metallurgy from 1991-1994 and deputy division director of materials science and technology for a year after that.

His research group is supported by industry, several federal research agencies, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee and the Defense Programs Advisory Committee under the Department of Energy. His lecture notes on texture and anisotropy are widely known and used, and he started a new course on additive manufacturing and materials in 2016. He started a new master's program in additive manufacturing in the fall of 2018.

Rollett's research focuses on microstructural evolution and microstructure-property relationships in 3D, using both experiments and simulations. Interests include 3D printing of metals, materials for energy conversion systems, strength of materials, constitutive relations, microstructure, texture, anisotropy, grain growth, recrystallization, formability, and stereology. Relevant techniques include high-performance spectral methods in micro-mechanics, dynamic x-ray radiography (DXR) and high-energy diffraction microscopy (HEDM). Important recent results include definition of process windows in 3D printing through characterization of porosity, 3D comparisons of experiment and simulation for plastic deformation in metals, the appearance of new grains during grain growth, and grain size stabilization. He has 320 peer-reviewed journal publications with an h-index of more than 80.

His awards and honors include: ASM Fellow, Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK), TMS Fellow, Cyril Stanley Smith Award (TMS), Member of Honor from the French Metallurgical Society, Cyril Stanley Smith Award from the International Conference on Recrystallization and Grain Growth, International Francqui Professor (2020-2021) from the Francqui Foundation and International Freeform and Additive Manufacturing Excellence (FAME) Award.

June 11, 2026 (Thursday)

9:00 – 9:40, June 11, 2026 (Thursday) - Keynote

Dr. Chia Youyee Vang
UWM Vice Chancellor, Community Empowerment & Institutional Inclusivity
Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

Dr. Chia Youyee Vang is a Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. Her teaching and research focus on twentieth-century U.S. international history, the Cold War in Asia, Asian American history, Hmong history, refugee migration, and transnational and diasporic communities. She examines not only major political and military transformations but also the lived realities of those who endure wars not of their own making but fought in their homelands. Her documentation of Southeast Asian refugee lives—and those of their descendants across four continents—offers critical insights into the enduring impact of one of the most controversial wars of the twentieth century. In addition to many articles and reports, she is the author of four books and an edited volume: Prisoner of Wars: A Hmong Fighter Pilot's Story of Escaping Death and Confronting Life (2020), Fly Until You Die: An Oral History of Hmong Pilots in the Vietnam War (2019), Hmong America: Reconstructing Community in Diaspora (2010), Hmong in Minnesota (2008), and Claiming Place: On the Agency of Hmong Women (2016). Her scholarship has earned numerous accolades, including appointment to the Organization of American Historians' Distinguished Lecture Program. Dr. Vang earned a B.A. in Political Science and French from Gustavus Adolphus College in 1994. She completed an M.A. in Public Affairs in 1996 and a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota in 2006.

9:40 – 10:20, June 11, 2026 (Thursday) – Keynote

Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed, PhD
Wehr Professor and Founding Chair of Computer Science Department
Director, Ubicomp Lab
Department of Computer Science
Marquette University
Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA

Sheikh Iqbal Ahamed is Professor of Computer Science in the Department of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science and Director of the Ubicomp Research Lab. He received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Arizona in 2003 under the direction of Dr. Stephen S. Yau. Dr. Ahamed has a strong performance record in research, with a career record of over $1 million in external research funding. His current projects cover a number of state-of-the-art advances in medical computing and mobile computing.

Dr. Ahamed's research work focuses on building customized and innovative patient communication methods through technology, developing new and innovative approaches for health monitoring, pain management, mapping technologies, and activity monitoring for smartphones. He has worked with hospitals in the U.S. and internationally on a number of projects, as well as with leading healthcare companies in the healthcare industry. Dr. Ahamed has worked with a number of engineers, nurses, and physicians on 20 healthcare grants over the past 13 years. Projects included work with cellphones, sensors, tablets, web applications, and HIPAA compliant cloud servers. His experience extends to working with patient populations in American Indian and Hispanic communities.

Dr. Ahamed teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on mobile computing, component architecture, elements of software development and software design, senior design project courses, and is a popular instructor for independent study courses. He advises graduate students in the MS and PhD programs, and serves as advisor for a number of undergraduate students.

Dr. Ahamed is a Senior Member of the IEEE Computer Society, a Member of the Association for Computing Machinery, Member of the Internet Society, as well as Gamma Beta Phi and Upsilon Pi Upsilon. He is the Steering Committee Chair of IEEE COMPSAC, the Computer Society's signature international computing conference. He serves on a number of committees at the department, university, and professional levels. In recognition of his high quality research work, Dr. Ahamed and his students and co-authors have received 10 best paper/poster awards at conferences and workshops in the past 5 years. He was awarded the Way-Klinger Young Scholars Award in 2008. He was invited as research faculty to Microsoft in Seattle in 2005, 2006, 2007, and 2008. He also was a 2006 recipient of a 3M Faculty Development Award.

Dr. Ahamed is Co-founder of Ubitrix, a technology transfer company that develops mobile applications for a number of uses, including healthcare communication, speech therapy, pallative care, as well as marketing, fitness tracking, embedded systems and location-based services.

10:20 – 10:40 AM Coffee Break

10:40 – 11:20, June 11, 2026 (Thursday) – Keynote

Dr. Alejandro Hernández González
Professor of Electrochemistry, Manufacturing Processes, and Dynamics
Faculty of Chemical Sciences
Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango (UJED), Durango, Mexico

Dr. Alejandro Hernández González is a Research Professor at the Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango (UJED) and serves as the President of the IEOM Durango Chapter. His expertise is built on a global academic foundation, having conducted research and specialized studies at institutions in Germany, Singapore, and the USA, including the Technical University of Munich, the German Institute of Science and Technology (Asia), MIT, and the University of Colorado Boulder. As the Innovation and Project Leader at Star Hunters Rocketry, Dr. Hernández specializes in experimental rocketry and liquid propulsion systems. He is deeply committed to democratizing space knowledge, actively mentoring students through the NASA International Space Apps Challenge and fostering local aerospace development.

11:20 – 12:00, June 11, 2026 (Thursday) - Keynote

Monica L. Davis
Sr. HR Leader and Certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR)
Delek US Holdings, Inc., Texas, USA

Monica L. Davis is a seasoned operations and human resources leader with extensive experience in production, distribution, logistics, and organizational leadership within the oil and gas industry. Over the past decade, she has successfully led operations across multiple sites, developing a strong technical and managerial foundation that enabled critical logistics and operational functions to continue seamlessly during highly challenging and disruptive periods. Currently serving as a Senior HR Leader and Certified Professional in Human Resources (PHR) at Delek US Holdings, Inc., Monica brings a unique combination of operational excellence, workforce leadership, and strategic problem-solving. Her expertise spans operational efficiency, process improvement, compliance management, risk mitigation, safety leadership, and organizational development. Monica is widely recognized for her ability to implement innovative and cost-effective operational strategies while maintaining high standards of safety, environmental compliance, and service reliability. She has consistently demonstrated success in optimizing scheduling systems, improving process efficiencies, strengthening risk management frameworks, and delivering operational excellence across complex environments. In addition to her technical and operational accomplishments, Monica is known as a collaborative and inspiring leader who excels at building strong relationships across diverse teams and fostering a culture of accountability, engagement, and continuous improvement.

12:00 – 12:20, June 11, 2026 (Thursday) - Break

12:20 – 13:00, June 11, 2026 (Thursday) – Keynote

Girish Kumar Gopalakrishnan, MS, CMBB, CSSBB, CMQ-OE
Senior Manager – Continuous Improvement – CNH
Senior Member – IEOM Society International

Girish Kumar Gopalakrishnan is a North America Continuous Improvement Senior Manager at Case New Holland (CNH), Girish has led cross-plant transformation initiatives that have significantly advanced manufacturing performance, digital innovation, and cultural engagement across CNH's operations. He is a distinguished continuous improvement leader whose 15-year career reflects deep technical expertise, transformative leadership, and a sustained impact on operational excellence. He holds a Master's degree in Industrial Engineering from North Carolina State University. He was named one among top 50 business transformation leaders to follow in 2025 by Process Excellence Network. He received the 2025 Marlyn Hyde Commitment to Excellence Award from the American Society of Quality (ASQ) NE Illinois Chapter. He serves as an Industry Advisory Board Member for the Industrial & Manufacturing Engineering department at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He is an ASQ certified Master Black Belt, Black Belt and Certified Manager of Quality and Organizational Excellence. He is also a Senior member with Industrial Engineering & Operations Management Society (IEOM), ASQ and Institute of Industrial Engineers (IISE). Girish is serving as the Secretary of ASQ NE Illinois Chapter, and as an Editor-in-Chief of the ASQ Lean Enterprise Division eZine Quarterly Magazine.

Submissions Received from Countries and Territories

1. Afghanistan
2. Algeria
3. Australia
4. Bangladesh
5. Bolivia
6. Botswana
7. Brazil
8. Canada
9. China
10. Colombia
11. Germany
12. Ghana
13. India
14. Indonesia
15. Iran
16. Jordan
17. Kazakhstan
18. Kuwait
19. Malaysia
20. Mexico
21. Nigeria
22. Norway
23. Oman
24. Pakistan
25. Paraguay
26. Peru
27. Portugal
28. Saudi Arabia
29. South Africa
30. Taiwan
31. Thailand
32. Turkey
33. United Kingdom
34. United States
35. Vietnam