

JUNE 2 – 5, 2025 | SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

Leading in the Age of AI: Silicon Valley Insights

Northeastern
University

 WOMEN
INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION



Silicon Valley is recognized as the number one global technology innovation hub in the world. It is home to the world's largest concentration of AI startups and venture capital, leading the global AI transformation that is impacting all sectors of society.

In this program, executive participants will hear from renowned academic experts and industry leaders at the forefront of the AI innovation wave. Participants will obtain evidence-based insights on creating cultures where innovation can thrive, influencing in an age of rapid change, and key insights on the global industry trends driven by AI. We strive to develop leaders who drive innovation on a global scale in an era of rapid disruption.



Future proof your career

Innovation

Develop and foster cultures of innovation

- Learn to implement an innovation for impact framework, taught by faculty member Curt Carlson, responsible for the software technology behind Apple's voice command intelligent assistant and creating the standard for high definition television - known to billions today as Siri and HDTV.
- Understand how to keep your teams at the cutting edge of innovation in a fast moving and dynamic AI landscape.

Become a Data Pioneer

- Dive into the transformative power of AI and ML without the steep learning curve of coding and statistics with a pragmatic, hands-on course designed at the Berkeley Fisher Center for business analytics.

Global and Responsible Leadership

- Hear from Silicon Valley industry leaders on how global trends in AI are shaping their business strategy.
- Understand the trends shaping AI and its impact on organizations and societies in a global landscape.
- Obtain actionable insights for responsible AI implementation

Resilient Leadership

- Build global strategic networks.
- Elevate your power and influence.
- Foster adaptive and resilient leadership.

VIRTUAL PRE-ARRIVAL SESSION: 05/21 4:00 - 5:00PM (CET)

Must know trends: the state of AI in Silicon Valley and the European Union

FACULTY

Thomas Neubert, CEO, Transatlantic AI Exchange

PROGRAM INTRODUCTION

Martine Liautaud, WIF & Caroline Simard, Northeastern University

	06/02 MON	06/03 TUE	06/04 WED	06/05 THU
9:00 - 9:30 AM	WELCOME COFFEE			
9:30 - 11:00 AM	Welcome: Martine Liautaud An overview of Silicon Valley: Caroline Simard	Managing teams in a fast paced world: Faculty: Caroline Simard	Becoming a data pioneer Faculty: Gauthier Vasseur	The Silicon Valley ecosystem - a tour
11:00 - 11:10 AM	BREAK			
11:10 - 12:30 PM	Innovation secrets of Silicon Valley: Value creation workshop Faculty: Curt Carlson	Power and influence to drive AI transformation Faculty: Caroline Simard	Becoming a data pioneer Faculty: Gauthier Vasseur	The Silicon Valley ecosystem - a tour
12:30 - 2:00 PM	LUNCH			
2:00 - 3:30 PM	Innovation secrets of Silicon Valley: Value creation workshop Faculty: Curt Carlson	Bridging minds and machines Faculty: Christie Chung	Responsible AI Faculty: Ricardo Baeza-Yates	The Silicon Valley ecosystem - a tour
3:30 - 3:40 PM	BREAK			
3:40 - 5:00 PM	Industry panel: Creating value in an AI fueled world.	Industry panel: Scaling innovation	Responsible AI Faculty: Ricardo Baeza-Yates	The Silicon Valley ecosystem - a tour
SPECIAL EVENTS	5:00 - 6:00 pm Welcome Reception			6:00 - 9:00 pm Gala Dinner

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MARTINE LIAUTAUD

Founder & President
Women Initiative Foundation
Program Creator and Chair

Martine Liautaud is an entrepreneur, investor and philanthropist.

Since 2009, Martine has focused extensively on her philanthropic efforts, advocating for women in business across France, Europe, USA, Canada and Singapore. That's why, in 2009, she founded and continues to run Women Initiative Foundation (WIF) to promote women's leadership in business across the world.

Previously, from 1990, she was the founder and chairperson of Liautaud&Cie, a consultancy specializing in M&A and offering strategic and financial advice to large international corporations.

As an entrepreneur, Martine has acquired majority or significant stakes in several companies with two notable success stories: Meccano, the world leader in metallic construction toys and Group La Martinière, a leading publishing Group.

Martine is also an active member of several international prestigious boards and was member of the strategic guidance committee at Paris Saclay University, until 2023. She is also from 2020 to this year, a member of the board of Stanford GSB Alumni Association.

Martine has published 4 books, drawing from her experience as an entrepreneur and a mentor. Martine has received the Légion d'Honneur from the Presidency of the French Republic.



CAROLINE SIMARD

Dean

Northeastern University
Silicon Valley Campus

Caroline Simard is the Regional Dean of Northeastern University Silicon Valley. In this role, she is responsible for the design and execution of the campus strategic plan, including the expansion of academic programs and design of new initiatives, building partnerships with companies, and overseeing campus operations. Before joining Northeastern, she was the Managing Director of the VMware Women's Leadership Innovation Lab at Stanford University. Previously, she served as the Senior Director of Research at the Clayman Institute for Gender Research, and as Director of Faculty Development and Diversity at the Stanford School of Medicine. Prior to Stanford, she served as the Vice President of Research and Executive Programs at AnitaB.org, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of women in computing and host of the Grace Hopper Celebration. Caroline has a PhD from Stanford University and Masters from Rutgers University. She is a board member of the Center for Institutional Courage.



CURT CARLSON

Founder and CEO
Practice of Innovation

Curtis R. Carlson, Ph.D., is a professor at Northeastern University. Carlson is a pioneer in the development and use of innovation best practices and an evangelist for innovation, education, and economic development. Carlson is widely sought as a speaker and thought leader on innovation and global competitiveness. He advises U.S. governors, prime ministers, economic ministers, and education ministers around the world on innovation, competitiveness, and educational reform. He has been a senior adviser to the government's of Malaysia, Japan, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, and Finland. Carlson served as SRI's President and CEO from 1998 to 2014. During this time SRI's revenue more than tripled, and SRI became a global model for the systematic creation of high-value innovations, such as HDTV, Intuitive Surgical, Siri, and many other world-changing advances. He and his team have won two Emmy awards for technical achievements.

Carlson was selected to serve on President Obama's National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship. He is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Singapore National Research Foundation. He served on the Scientific Advisory Board of Taiwan and the National Science Foundation's Engineering Advisory Council.

He was a member of the Air Force Science Advisory Board, the Defense Science Board Task Force on Bio-Defense, multiple National Laboratory Review Panels, the Army's Federated Laboratory Task Force, and the Galvin Navy Laboratories Task Force. Carlson served on the National Academy of Engineering Committee on Manufacturing, Design, and Innovation. He was a founding member of the Innovation Leadership Council for the World Economic Forum.

He has received honorary degrees. Carlson has been a member of numerous boards, including Nuance Communications, Pyramid Vision Technologies, Sensor, and Sarif. He was a member of the General Motors' Science and Technology Advisory Board.



CHRISTIE CHUNG

Executive Director
Mills Institute
Northeastern University

Christie Chung, PhD, is the executive director of the Mills Institute at Northeastern University and professor of psychology. Previously, Chung served as the associate dean of research, scholarship, and partnerships at Mills College at Northeastern. She also served as the special advisor on diversity, equity, and inclusion to the senior vice president for global network and strategic initiatives. Chung serves on the advisory board of Lead by Learning and the editorial board of the Journal of Integrated Social Sciences. She also provides executive consultation to higher education leaders through Academic Impressions. Chung received her Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree as a psychology specialist from University of Toronto, her Master of Arts and PhD in applied cognitive psychology from Claremont Graduate University, and her postdoctoral training in behavioral neuroscience at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is an international alumna of Phi Beta Kappa, a proud alumna of the HERS Leadership Institute, a member of the Council of Chinese American Deans and Presidents, an executive alum of The Partnership, Inc. Next Generation Executive program, and an active leader in the Psychonomic Society.



GAUTHIER VASSEUR

Executive Director

Fisher Center for Data Analytics
UC Berkeley

Trainer, professor, thought leader, and international speaker, Gauthier Vasseur shares his cross-domain expertise with business teams and students, equipping them with practical techniques to master data and analytics and drive their organization's digital transformation. With a decade of experience spanning leading universities, professional associations, and Fortune 500 companies, his dynamic approach fosters impact, engagement, and content deeply rooted in business reality. His executive track record includes leadership roles in large enterprises such as Google, Oracle, and Hyperion, as well as in bootstrapped, Series A, and Pre-IPO companies like Semarchy, Trufa, and TriNet. He has overseen multiple functions in Finance, Operations, and Marketing, building teams, analytics, and scalable processes to drive growth and transparency. A technology evangelist at heart, Gauthier Vasseur has built a career on a passion for innovation and its application to internal and external customer success. Drawing from a broad range of experiences, he has cultivated extensive management and leadership skills, always grounded in a data-driven approach.



RICARDO BAEZA-YATES

Expert Member

Global Partnership on AI

Ricardo Baeza-Yates is a part-time professor at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain and the Universidad de Chile in Santiago. He served as the first Director of Research at Northeastern University's Institute for Experiential Artificial Intelligence. Baeza-Yates served as chief technology officer of NTENT. Prior to these roles, he was vice president of research at Yahoo Labs. Before joining Yahoo Labs in California, he founded or led Yahoo Labs in many countries. Until 2004, he was a professor and founding director of the Center for Web Research at the Universidad de Chile. Baeza-Yates is a co-author of the best-seller Modern Information Retrieval textbook (Addison-Wesley, 1999), whose 2011 expanded edition won the ASIST Book of the Year award. He is also a co-author of the second edition of the Handbook of Algorithms and Data Structures (Addison-Wesley, 1991) and co-editor of Information Retrieval: Algorithms and Data Structures (Prentice-Hall, 1992), among more than 600 other publications. Baeza-Yates served on the board of governors of the IEEE Computer Society from 2002 to 2004, and on the ACM Council from 2012 to 2016.



THOMAS NEUBERT

CEO

Transatlantic AI Exchange

Serial Entrepreneur and Corporate Executive with a track record from inception to IPO, a seasoned expert in market evangelization for innovative technologies with focus on artificial intelligence and a global specialist in go-to-market strategies. An Advisor, Mentor, and Investor. Founder and Chief Connector of the Transatlantic AI eXchange (TAIX)

Committed to diversity, equality, and inclusion, he founded the “Remarkable Women in AI” conference series driving meaningful change in the industry. In Client-Oriented Roles, ranging from Board Advisor to Fractional CxO/VP, he applies 34 years of expertise in launching startups, international subsidiaries, and innovation hubs. He serves as a reliable local representative for startups and established corporations, proficient in C-Level engagement and identifying potential customers and developer communities. At Intel (January 2017 - February 2023), as Senior Director and GM in the Datacenter and AI Cloud Group, he led the development of new business lines, positioning them as potential revenue streams. Embracing a venture capital model, he facilitated the creation of independent operating units affiliated to startups, promoting their success.

Initially joining Intel’s New Technology Group to spearhead global sales for 3D Perceptual Computing, I later focused on AI and Deep Learning within the IOTG group, establishing programs for application and algorithm developers to access new technologies promptly. During his tenure as VP/GM at Deutsche Telekom (January 2012 - February 2016), he spearheaded North American initiatives for innovative partnerships. Prior to this, he managed global accounts at Logitech and evangelized desktop video conferencing for over eight years as VP of Business Development. Since relocating to Silicon Valley in 1991, his journey includes contributions to the graphics industry and leading ELSA’s U.S. operations up to its 1998 IPO. As an entrepreneur and private investor, he advises numerous startups, serving as AI Advisor for the European Innovation Council (EIC), German Entrepreneurship program and Innovit the Italian Innovation Hub in Silicon Valley. Additionally, he co- founded the Silicon Valley Marathon Club (SVMC).



The mission of the Women Initiative Foundation (WIF) is to promote the advancement of women in business and the economy.

WIF focuses on empowering women at all levels of their careers, working to break the glass ceiling they face in terms of income and professional growth. The Foundation has a strong international presence, with operations in France, Europe, the USA, Canada, and Singapore.

It is a world in which women could give their full potential in business, the economy and society. A world based on values that can ensure sustainable development for the benefit of future generations. We believe that women are the agents of change in the years to come and that they will be at the origin of social transformations that will benefit both men and women tomorrow.

450

Women entrepreneurs mentored for 15 years

25

Yearly invitations to private gatherings and events

2

Studies on managerial behavior and gender stereotypes in business entrepreneurship in Europe, the United States, and Canada.

500

Program attendees each year

Northeastern University

Founded in 1898, Northeastern University is renowned for its experiential learning model, high-impact research, deep partnerships, and global reach.

From its inception, the university has embraced innovative approaches to teaching and research that emphasize real-world experience and engagement.

Today, Northeastern's signature model transcends traditional boundaries, empowering students, faculty, alumni, partners, and innovators to solve complex challenges and drive meaningful impact.

The university has established a unique global system comprising 13 campuses, 49 alumni communities, and more than 3,500 employer partners, fostering a dynamic international network. This system creates new opportunities for enriched educational experiences and deeper collaborations across industries and disciplines, bringing together the right expertise to turn potential into reality.

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