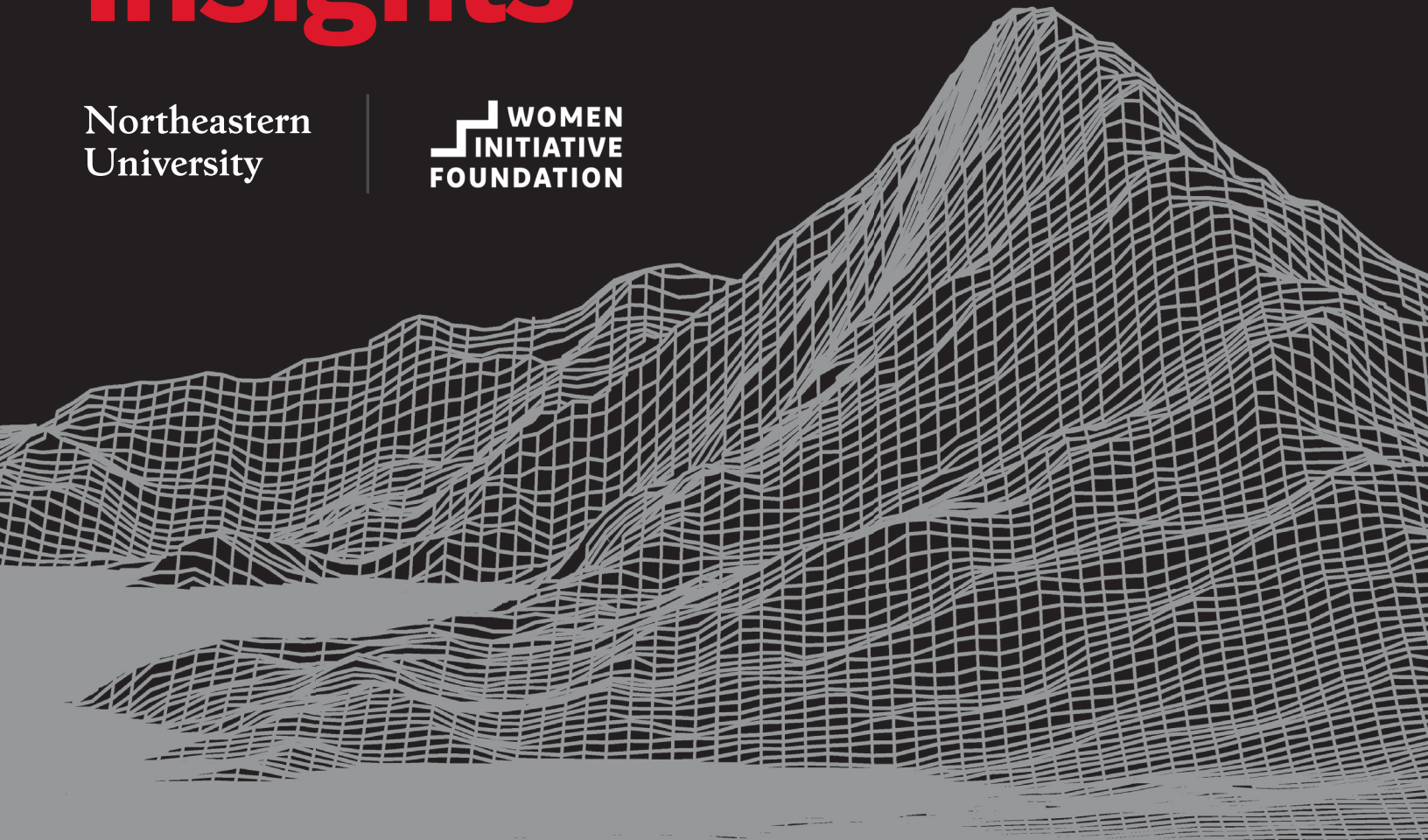


APRIL 12 -16, 2026 | SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

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

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 | 90 Minutes | Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Session Schedule

🇺🇸 PST (California): 8:00 – 9:30 AM

🇫🇷 CET (France): 5:00 – 6:30 PM

Must-Know Trends: The State of AI in Silicon Valley

90-minute virtual session

Faculty: Caroline Simard, Northeastern University

Microsoft Teams Meeting Details

- **Join Link:** [Click to Join Meeting](#)
- **Meeting ID:** 253 692 220 476 27
- **Passcode:** Fz3s3Um9

	04/13 MON	04/14 TUE	04/15 WED	04/16 THU
9:00 - 9:30 AM	WELCOME COFFEE & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST			
9:30 - 10:15 AM	Welcome: Martine Liautaud & Caroline Simard	The state of AI transformation Faculty: Caroline Simard	Becoming a data pioneer Faculty: Gauthier Vasseur	
10:15 - 10:30 AM	BREAK			
10:30 - 12:00 PM	Innovation secrets of Silicon Valley Faculty: Curt Carlson	Managing teams in an AI world Faculty: Caroline Simard	Responsible AI Faculty: Gauthier Vasseur	Industry visit and executive briefing
12:00 - 1:30 PM	LUNCH			
1:30 - 3:00 PM	Innovation in practice (Part 1) Value creation workshop Faculty: Curt Carlson	Transformative leadership Faculty: Areen Shahbari	No-code AI for business (Part 1) Workshop Faculty: Gauthier Vasseur	Industry visit and executive briefing
3:00 - 3:30 PM	BREAK			
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Innovation in practice (Part 2) Value creation workshop Faculty: Curt Carlson	Mastering influence and persuasion Faculty: Areen Shahbari	No-code AI for business (Part 2) Workshop Faculty: Gauthier Vasseur	
SPECIAL EVENTS	5:00 - 6:30 pm Welcome reception		5:00 - 5:30 pm Awarding of certificates 6:00 - 9:00 pm Gala dinner	

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY 4 N 2ND ST SUITE 150, SAN JOSE, CA 95113



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. Two notable success stories are Meccano, the world leader in metallic construction toys, and Group La Martinière, a leading publishing group.

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

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

She holds a master of laws from the Sorbonne University and a master in political science from Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris. She is an alumna of Stanford GSB (1989).



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 Charter Member of TiE Silicon Valley.



CURT CARLSON

Founder and CEO, Practice of Innovation

Professor of the Practice, Northeastern University

Curtis R. Carlson, Ph.D., is a professor of the practice 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.



AREEN SHAHBARI

**Executive and Professional Development Trainer
Consultant, Harvard PED**

Areen Shahbari is the Founder and Chief Training and Consulting Officer of Cactus Int. LLC, an Executive and Professional Development Training instructor at Harvard and Stanford universities. She is a recognized expert in leadership, strategy, innovation, and organizational transformation with over 20 years of experience in management, corporate training, consulting, and executive coaching. With a proven track record of designing and delivering over 200 high-impact business programs across five continents, Shahbari has partnered with top organizations, governments, and nonprofits worldwide. Combining business acumen with psychological insights, she creates transformative programs that deliver measurable, long-term results. Her diverse client portfolio spans leading firms, governments, and non-profits, including MediaTek, USAA, the Saudi Ministry of Economy and Planning, Saudi Industrial Development Fund, Qatar Development Bank, Monshaat, U.S. Embassy and Consulates in Mexico, Santander, MAPFRE, Plug and Play Tech Center, Business Women Forum, SEED InVenture, IM Swedish Development Partner, and the James Beard Foundation. Shahbari speaks at major conferences and industry events, sharing expert insights on leadership, strategy, and innovation.

Shahbari holds an MBA from Simmons School of Business. A Fulbright Alumna and Beta Gamma Sigma member, she has earned accolades as an award-winning entrepreneur and business instructor, receiving the Harvard Distinguished Teaching Performance Award and the Simmons MSM Teaching Excellence Award. Shahbari is dedicated to delivering innovative, high-quality programs that drive success for organizations worldwide.



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.



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.

The Silicon Valley campus is located in downtown San Jose and has approximately 1000 students enrolled in a portfolio of graduate programs designed to educate future technology leaders. The campus offers options for students of diverse academic and professional backgrounds to deepen their expertise, develop a new specialization, or enter a technical field from a different sector.

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