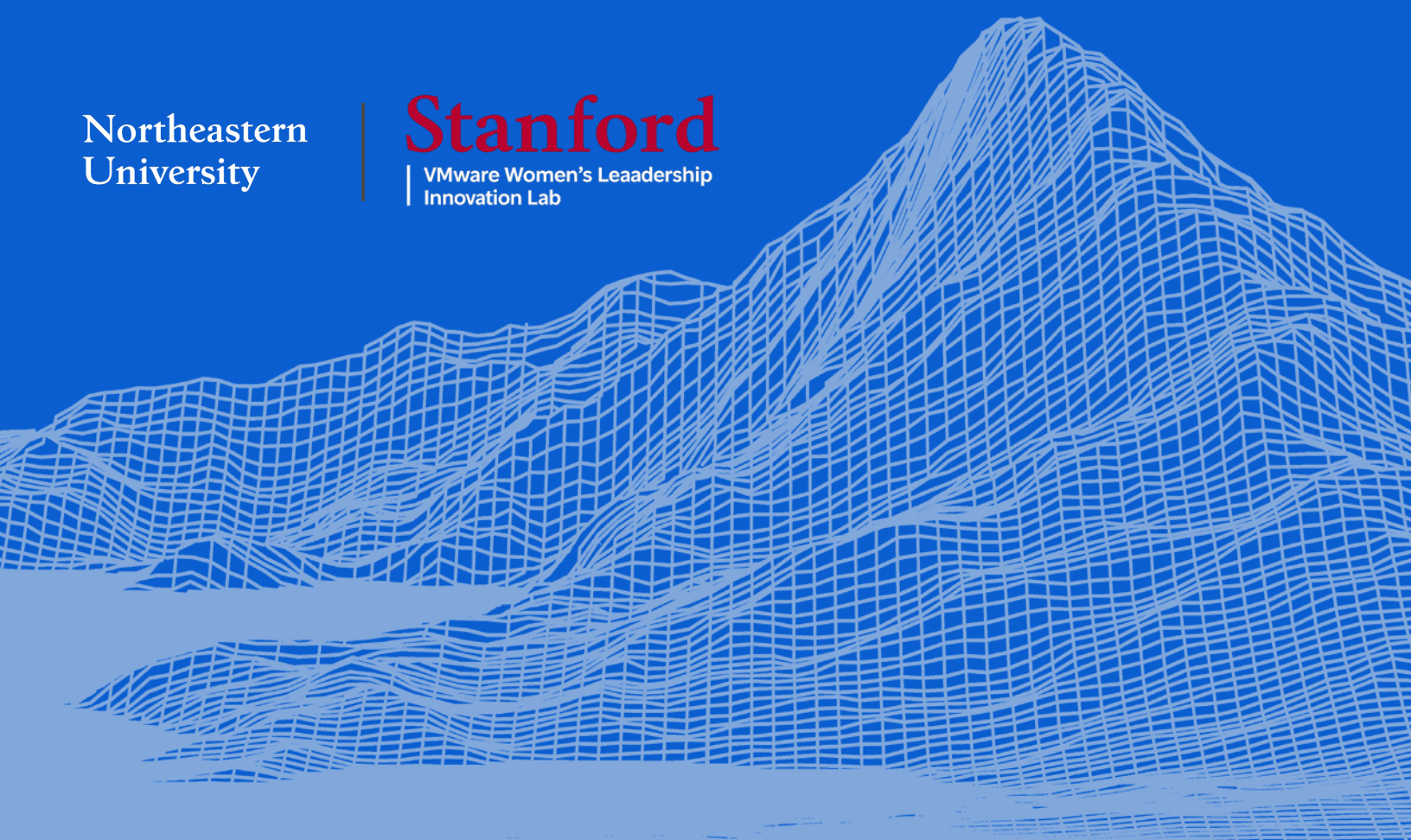



June 11 - June 30, 2026 | Silicon Valley, California

Sparking Innovation: Inclusion, Collaboration, and Teams

Northeastern
University

Stanford
| VMware Women's Leadership
Innovation Lab





Unleashing the power of diverse, global teams is a key leadership challenge of our times - one that is compounded by the challenges brought by AI transformation. We are often clear on the prize: more innovation, faster change, solving complex problems, and engaged teammates. Yet, we are often less clear about the barriers and how to overcome them. In this course, we will dig deep on team dynamics at a global scale, and learn research-based strategies to foster innovation in today's fast-paced world.

Format: 5 Sessions (60 Minutes)

Session #/ Date	Session Description	Pre-work/Homework	Blurbs
<p>1: Framework and Skill</p> <p>June 11th Session Time:</p> <p>8:00 - 9:00 AM (PT) / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET) / 5:00- 6:00 PM (CET)</p> <p>Click Here To Join</p>	<p>Diversity Drives Innovation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Link between diversity and innovation ◦ Introduction to when diversity is thwarted from having impact • Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The value of diversity ◦ Perspective taking • Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Create a cohort ◦ Create goals for participation ◦ Practice cognitive empathy 	<p>How Diversity Makes Us Smarter</p> <p>The Cost of Fitting In</p>	<p>“If people think alike then no matter how smart they are they most likely will get stuck at the same locally optimal solutions. Finding new and better solutions, innovating, requires thinking differently. That’s why diversity powers innovation.” --Professor Scott Page. In this session, we will get to know each other, explore Page’s quote and then establish your goals for the series.</p>

Session #/ Date	Session Description	Pre-work/Homework	Blurbs
<p>2: Framework and Skill</p> <p>June 16th Session Time:</p> <p>8:00 - 9:00 AM (PT) / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET) / 5:00- 6:00 PM (CET)</p> <p>Click Here To Join</p>	<p>Unleashing Team Effectiveness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Engage across differences ◦ Growth mindset ◦ Establish team norms and practices • Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Foundations of culture ◦ Psychological safety ◦ Habits of effective teams • Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Practice establishing team norms 	<p>Research: To Excel, Diverse Teams Need Psychological Safety</p> <p>What Google Learned From Its Quest to Build the Perfect Team</p>	<p>Diversity is not guaranteed to unleash innovation. The ecosystem and context matter. Learn powerful tools to foster a sense of belonging and create conditions for team success. Practice concrete exercises to identify practices to unleash the power of teams.</p>

Session #/ Date	Session Description	Pre-work/Homework	Blurbs
<p>3: Skill</p> <p>June 18th Session Time:</p> <p>8:00 - 9:00 AM (PT) / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET) / 5:00- 6:00 PM (CET)</p> <p>Click Here To Join</p>	<p>Strategic Networks: Why they're important and how to build them, with Jacqueline Jones and Lori Mackenzie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Position yourself and others for meaningful connections through social media • Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ The power of language ◦ Social branding • Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ A revitalized LinkedIn profile ◦ Expanded ability to use language to advocate for expertise 	<p>Why Strategic Networks are Important for Women and How to Build Them</p> <p>To Succeed in Tech, Women Need More Visibility</p> <p>Vague Feedback is Holding Women Back</p>	<p>Strategic networks help you deliver more and have more impact. Women often face barriers to gain visibility in networks. Discover the power of language and networking to expand what is possible.</p>

Session #/ Date	Session Description	Pre-work/Homework	Blurbs
<p>4: Skill</p> <p>June 23rd Session Time:</p> <p>8:00 - 9:00 AM (PT) / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET) / 5:00-6:00 PM (CET)</p> <p>Click Here To Join</p>	<p>Acting with Power with Melissa Jones Briggs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Increase one's influence by understanding the body language of power • Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Power dynamics ◦ Body language • Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Get comfortable with power by adopting an actor's mindset ◦ Identify and leverage the power one holds in a variety of situations 	<p>Using a Mantra to Be a More Inclusive Leader</p> <p>The Authenticity Paradox</p>	<p>Your performance of power and presence affects not only how others see you, but also how you see yourself. The ability to move gracefully between different hierarchical roles is in large part what it means to be an effective social actor - but most people find they have limited range. This highly interactive session is based on the popular Stanford University Graduate School of Business course and supported by leading social, psychological and gender research. In this interactive session, we will examine three dimensions of performing with power: delivery, status, warmth. We will explore and experiment with physical, vocal, and mindset techniques trained performers use to play authoritative characters, which can make it easier for others to trust your capabilities and visualize you taking charge, and easier for you to calibrate your impact.</p>

Session #/ Date	Session Description	Pre-work/Homework	Blurbs
<p>5: Tool</p> <p>June 25th Session Time:</p> <p>8:00 - 9:00 AM (PT) / 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET) / 5:00-6:00 PM (CET)</p> <p>Click Here To Join</p>	<p>Sustaining Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Change agency ◦ Strategic networks • Topics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Small wins approach to change ◦ Growing impact for yourself and others through strategic networks • Outcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Tools to build one's networks ◦ Practices to continue the journey 	<p>Reducing Gender Inequality at Work, One Small Step at a Time</p> <p>If GoDaddy Can Turn the Corner on Sexism, Who Can't?</p> <p>Assignments Are Critical Tools to Achieve Workplace Gender Equity</p>	<p>In the final session, we will reflect on our work thus far in order to keep the momentum going far after the end of our work together. We will explore the role of stretch assignments in building the foundation for advancement and cultural change. Attendees will receive a Women Initiative Foundation certificate of completion signed by Lori and Sandra.</p>



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.



Lori Nishiura Mackenzie

Co-founder & Communications &
Corporate Engagements Lead

Lori Nishiura Mackenzie is a speaker, researcher and change agent in diversity, equity and inclusion. She is co-founder of the Stanford VMware Women's Leadership Innovation Lab, which creates impact research to understand the barriers to women's advancement in order to build more inclusive workplaces and empower change agents. In her work, Lori fosters a "small wins" approach to change by supporting people to take bold yet doable actions.

Lori is a keynote speaker to a wide range of audiences, from executive teams to women's summits. Lori's expertise has been recognized as a 2022 LinkedIn Top Voice in Gender Equity, a BBC's 100 Women in 2017, and in the award-winning documentary, bias, which premiered in 2018. Her work has been published in the Harvard Business Review, The New York Times, Inc., Fast Company and the Inc. In 2020, Lori was awarded the CEDAW Human Rights Award, Education, from the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women. Prior to her current roles at Stanford, Lori served as the executive director of the Clayman Institute for Gender Research. Lori brings 20 years of marketing strategy and business management experience at companies including Procter & Gamble, Apple, eBay and PayPal. She is a board member of the Alliance for Girls and the Center for Institutional Courage, and an advisor to August and Optionality. Lori has an MBA from the Wharton School of Business and a BA in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

*Pronounced see-daw for UN General Assembly, Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, 18 December 1979

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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