



## **SWSG Pittsburgh Group Mentoring: Breaking Down Professional Barriers**

Monday, Nov. 4, 2019 | Energy Innovation Center

Join us for a Fireside Chat featuring:

**Dena Haritos Tsamitis, Carnegie Mellon University Information Networking Institute**

Barbara Lazarus Professor in Information Networking

Director, Information Networking Institute (INI)

Founding Director, Education, Training and Outreach, CyLab

College of Engineering, Carnegie Mellon University



Dena Haritos Tsamitis has led the College of Engineering's Information Networking Institute (INI) as director since 2004. Her efforts have prepared the next generation of information networking, security and mobility professionals at Carnegie Mellon University. She joined the university in 2000, serving first as the INI's associate director in 2002 before assuming the role of director in 2004.

Under her direction, the INI has spanned globally to offer programs in Greece, Portugal, and Japan and has led the innovative design of bicoastal programs offered at the Silicon Valley campus. As the INI's associate director from 2002-2004, Dena established a master's program in Athens that was the first Carnegie Mellon degree to be earned at a global location. Her research on transnational university partnership programs has influenced the framework

and delivery of numerous degree programs offered through innovative delivery models.

A student advocate and mentor of women in technology, Dena is passionate about increasing diversity in STEM fields. In 2005, she co-founded the student organization, Women@INI (WINI), to address the unique challenges faced by women in the male-dominated field of engineering. To extend WINI's influence beyond the INI, she established a partnership with the Executive Women's Forum (EWF) on Information Security, Risk Management, and Privacy.

Dena led efforts in Carnegie Mellon attaining three distinct federal designations as a National Center of Academic Excellence for its merits in information assurance and cyber defense (CAE-IA/CD), research (CAE-R) and cyber operations (CAE-Cyber Ops).

Dena is a founding director of Carnegie Mellon CyLab, for which she spearheaded efforts in cybersecurity education, training, and outreach. She established the MySecureCyberspace initiative to raise "cyberawareness" in Internet users of all ages through a portal, game, and curriculum. Since its launch in 2005, the initiative reached over one million people in 167 countries, including more than 48K users in 30 countries of the Carnegie Cyber Academy and Game.

Dena has served on a number of college and university-wide committees, including Carnegie Mellon's strategic planning committee for the previous three strategic plan cycles. She currently co-chairs the

College of Engineering Global Campus committee. Dena has also served on several advisory councils, including the Education Advisory Council for the U.S. Air Force's Cyber Innovation Center and the Advisory Board for the Master of Software Assurance Curriculum, and was a founding member of the Advisory Board for the Executive Doctorate at University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education. Currently, Dena is a member of the American College of Greece Board of Trustees. She also serves on the board of advisors for the RSA Conference, EWF, RedMarlin, Inc., Prime Tech Partners and the Norfolk State University Information Assurance Research, Education and Development Institute.

For her achievements in information security and education, Dena was named 2018 Woman in IT Security Power Player by SC Magazine and received the 2008 Women of Influence Award, presented by Alta Associates and CSO Magazine. Carnegie Mellon honored Dena with the 2012 Barbara Lazarus Award for Graduate Student and Junior Faculty Mentoring in recognition of her leadership promoting equality and inclusion as well as her long-standing commitment to mentoring graduate students and faculty. In 2017, Dena was named as the first recipient of the endowed Barbara Lazarus Professorship in Information Networking at Carnegie Mellon University.

**Avis Yates Rivers, Technology Concepts Group International, LLC**  
President and CEO



Avis Yates Rivers is the President and CEO of Technology Concepts Group International, LLC. (TCGi), a global asset, expense and procurement management firm. She possesses more than 35 years of general management experience in the information technology industry and has been a successful tech entrepreneur for over 30 years.

Prior to establishing her first company in 1985, Ms. Yates Rivers enjoyed an 11-year career at Exxon Corporation and its subsidiaries. Avis decided to branch out on her own, which led to the founding of her first company. She went on to found several firms over the years, culminating with Technology Concepts Group International, LLC (TCGi). With its innovative supply chain solutions, TCGi specializes in reducing the cost of IT Asset Management, IT Procurement Management and Tail Spend Management.

Her many accolades include Entrepreneur of the Year, Woman of Distinction, the Shirley Chisholm Award for Business, Top 10 Women in Technology and Top 25 Leading Women Entrepreneurs & Business Owners, along with her White House Champion of Change in STEM honor awarded by President Barack Obama.

She is a nationally recognized thought-leader and in-demand global speaker. Her first book, 'Necessary Inclusion: Embracing the Changing Faces of Technology,' was released in 2017. For more information about Avis, please visit [www.avisyatesrivers.com](http://www.avisyatesrivers.com).

MODERATED BY:

**Toni Murphy, Comcast Business (Keystone Region)**  
Vice President



Toni Murphy is currently the Vice President of Comcast Business. In this role, Toni is responsible of customer acquisition and growth in the small business and mid-market Enterprise fiber connectivity space. Based in Pittsburgh, she leads a team of 160 sales professionals and product enthusiasts across the Keystone Region, which encompasses the states of Pennsylvania, eastern Ohio, West Virginia and western Maryland. In addition to these core responsibilities, Toni leads the Keystone Region Diversity & Inclusion Council, where she is implementing strategies to hire, retain and develop the next generation of diverse leaders in the organization.

Toni has had a storied career at Comcast. Over the last 10 years, she has held a variety of positions across the United States. Prior to Pittsburgh, Toni was the Sr. Director of Market Development for Comcast Business in California Region and, prior to that, the Sr. Director of Business Support & Analytics for the Greater Chicago Region of Comcast. Toni began her journey with Comcast as Manager of Financial & Strategic Planning at Comcast Corporate in Philadelphia.

Of her many accolades at Comcast, Toni is the only African American female and millennial who owns a P&L at the Company. She was also one of the first millennials to be promoted to Vice President across the Enterprise.

Toni is a graduate of Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in French and Economics.

Toni currently sits on the board of Strong Women Strong Girls, a Pittsburgh-based non-profit focused on the development and mentorship of female youth and mid-level female leaders and RedChairPGH, another Pittsburgh-based non-profit that focuses on achieving gender balance in IT and Technology.

Toni has received many industry awards and recognition for her professional success. She is very proud of her recognition as one of Cablefax's Most Influential Minorities in Cable in 2016, 2017 and 2018. Toni was also selected as one of Pittsburgh Magazine's "40 under 40" in the November 2017 issue. In 2018, Toni was recognized by the National Association of Multi-Ethnicity in Communications (NAMIC) with the Luminary Award, which recognizes rising stars in the cable and telecommunications industry. She was also nominated for the 2018 ATHENA Young Professional Award.

In her spare time, Toni is a jazz singer, who enjoys travel, writing poetry and spending time with her husband, Craig, and their three beautiful children, LilyJin, Blaise and London.