AGENDA: MORNING SESSION

8:30-9:00 **REGISTRATION** 2nd Floor - Main Ballroom Area
Registration
Continental Breakfast
Student Posters
Exhibitors

9:00-9:30 **WELCOME -** Main Ballroom

Dr. Stephen Burley, NJBDA President and University Professor/Henry Rutgers Chair, Rutgers University
Dr. Ali Houshmand, President, Rowan University
Dr. Vojislav Pophristic, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor. Academic Affairs
Kevin Dehmer, New Jersey State Chief Technology Officer
Dr. Peggy Brennan Tonetta, NJBDA Executive Director

9:30 -10:15 **Keynote Introduction - Dr. Forough Ghahramani,** Edge

Keynote Address – Dr. Jeannette Wing, Executive Vice President for Research and Professor Computer Science, Columbia University

"Trustworthy AI"
Recent years have seen an astounding growth in the deployment of AI systems in critical domains such as autonomous vehicles, criminal justice, and healthcare, where decisions taken by AI agents directly impact human lives. Consequently, there is an increasing concern whether these decisions can be trusted. This presentation will consider how the promise of AI benefits can be delivered while addressing scenarios that have life-critical consequences for people and society. In short, how can trustworthy AI be achieved? This talk poses a new research agenda, from a formal methods perspective, to increase trust in AI systems.

10:15 – 11:00 Break and Networking

11:00-12:00 **RESEARCH TRACK PROGRAM**
The symposium research track features state-of-the-art research on AI, agentic AI, and Informatics spanning disciplines and domains. Abstracts for all session papers can be found at the end of this program.

Committee: Rajiv Kashyap (WPU) (Co-Chair), Jim Samuel (Rutgers) (Co-Chair)
Hieu Nguyen (Rowan), Abhishek Tripathi (TCNJ), Sharath Kumar Jagannathan (St. Peters), Umashanger Thayasivam (Rowan), Mahmoud Daneshmand (Stevens), J.D Jayaraman (NJCU/Kean)

Research Session 1: Lightning Talks - AI and Human Society
Location: CSC221 A/B/C
Moderator: Dr. Sonal Pandey, Rutgers University

Research Session 2: Industry Research - AI Applications
Location: CSC 144 A/B

Moderator: Dr. Jim Samuel, Rutgers University

Research Session 3: AI and Informatics

Location: CSC 129
Moderator: Dr. Cyril Ku, William Paterson University

Research Session 4: Agentic AI - Innovations & Future Trends

Location: CSC 127
Moderators: Dr. Rajiv Kashyap and Dr. Ana Christina Siquiera, William Paterson University

STUDENT POSTER SESSION

Location: 1st Floor Pit Area

Student Poster Committee
Hieu Nguyen (Chair), Rowan University; Rajiv Kashyap, William Paterson University
Ik Jae Lee, Rowan University

Poster Judging Committee
Rajiv Kashyap (Chair), William Paterson; Zeeshan Ahmed, Rutgers; Lathish Balaji, Rowan; Stephen Betts, William Paterson; Burt Brooks, PathAble AI; Jin-A Choi, Montclair; Dhruv Chunawala, Middlesex College; Shen-Shyang Ho, Rowan; Sho Islam, Middlesex County, NJ; Nick Ivanov, Rowan; Cyril Ku, William Paterson; Ik Jae Lee, Rowan; Connie Pascal, Rutgers; Nick Picioccio, Middlesex; Elliot Schwartz, Rowan; Nan Wang, William Paterson; Mahesh Yadav, Optima Global Solutions; Emre Yetgen, Rider University

AGENDA: AFTERNOON SESSION - Main Ballroom

12:00-1:00 **Lunch, Networking, Exhibits**

12:45-1:00 **Best Poster Awards - Velocity Tech Solutions**

1:00-1:45 **Keynote Introduction - Dr. Uma Thayasivam,** Rowan University

Keynote Address - Dr. Khalifeh Al Jadda, Director of Data Science, Google and Co-Founder/VP ATLytiCS, Inc.

"AI at Scale: The Next Industrial Revolution"
The technological breakthroughs that ignited the current era of Generative AI will be examined. The evolving economic landscape, industry's most significant trends, including multimodal systems and agentic AI, will be explored. Finally, the key risks and challenges accompanying these advancements will be assessed.

1:45-2:45 **Industry Panel Discussion 1: Developing Sustainable and Accessible AI EcoSystems: An Industry Perspective**
This panel will explore from an industry perspective, the many complexities involved with developing sustainable and accessible AI ecosystems. These include environmental impacts of AI data centers, strategies to manage energy consumption, compute demands, and sustainability as systems scale; critical challenges organizations face in moving to production-grade systems; scaling AI in high-stakes environments such as security and transportation, where system failure carries real-world consequences; evolving role of humans in AI-driven decision-making; current gaps in the AI workforce, including skills most in demand and how universities can better prepare students; and approaches to

ensure that AI technologies are developed with consideration for diverse populations, particularly individuals with disabilities.

Moderator - Dr. Nidhal Bouaynaya, Associate Vice Chancellor, Artificial Intelligence and Professor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Rowan University

- **Charles Antoine Beyney**, Founder and President, DataOne
- **Burt Brooks,** Founder and CEO, Pathable AI
- **Dr. Christopher Smith**, Science and Technology Director, Transportation Security Lab, Dept. of Homeland Security
- **Taylor Wilson**, Vice President, Applied Statistics & Data Science, Reveal Global Consulting

2:45-3:00 **BREAK AND NETWORKING**

3:00-4:00 **Panel Discussion 2: Democratizing AI: Academic Leadership, Ethics, and Community Impact**

This panel will explore how academic institutions are advancing AI through research, pedagogy, and partnerships that promote ethical design, inclusive access, and community impact. Panelists will discuss efforts to align AI development with democratic values and the symposium's core pillars: people, data, ethics, and infrastructure, highlighting higher education's role in shaping sustainable and socially responsible AI ecosystems.

Moderator - Dr. Forough Ghahramani, Assistant Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Sponsored Programs, Edge

- **Dr. Nawal H. Ammar**, Founding Dean, Ric Edelman College of Communication, Humanities & Social Sciences, Professor of Law and Justice, Rowan University
- **Dr. Lauren Goodlad**, Rutgers University, Chair, Critical AI @ Rutgers and Editor of Critical AI
- **Dr. Andrea Salgian,** Professor and Chair, Dept of Computer Science, The College of New Jersey
- **Dr. Linda Scherr,** NJCCC Chief Academic Officer - Established AI for Impact & NJ's first Data Scientist AI Apprenticeship programs
- **Dr. Grace Wang**, Distinguished Professor, Computer Science, Associate Dean for Research and External Relations, Ying Wu College of Computing, Founding Director, AI Center for Research, New Jersey Institute of Technology

4:00 **CLOSING REMARKS:**

Dr. Peggy Brennan Tonetta, Co-founder, Past President, and Executive Director, NJBDA

Dr. Uma Thayasivam, Professor and Department Head, Mathematics Dept., Rowan University