



## THE WEEKLY

Dear Colleagues,

Please encourage students to sign up for this year's TechConnect Hacks, happening on March 11-13th. TechConnect Hacks will feature two coinciding hackathons for the first time: [PatriotHacks](#) and [HackOverflow](#).

Participants will work in teams at both hackathons to create different software and hardware "hacks" to solve real-world problems. Students will receive assistance from mentors throughout the hackathon and participate in various workshops, activities, and networking events.

For example, students interested in a data track can participate in the parallel datathon contest featuring analytics of a federal contracts database where they will be mentored and judged by data scientists from the U.S. Treasury, GMU faculty, and local companies.

Workshops, activities, and networking events are open to all registered students. The event is free, and no experience is required to attend. For more information and to register, click [here](#).



### About the event

If you think a hackathon is fun, imagine how much learning and collaboration would be in a double hackathon! On March 11th-13th, the in-person TechConnect Hacks event at George Mason University will feature the fourth annual PatriotHacks hackathon and the first HackOverflow hackathon.

A hackathon is a 40-hour event where students work in a sprint-like environment to solve real-world problems. The coinciding PatriotHacks and HackOverflow hackathons, which focus on software and hardware, respectively will bring more than 250 students from colleges and universities across the country. The "hacks" and ideas students can create are endless.

Examples of past projects include: creating virtual reality classrooms, a machine learning algorithm to classify news articles, creating sustainable earth solutions, and even an augmented reality DJ mixer.

**Register Here!**



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## RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

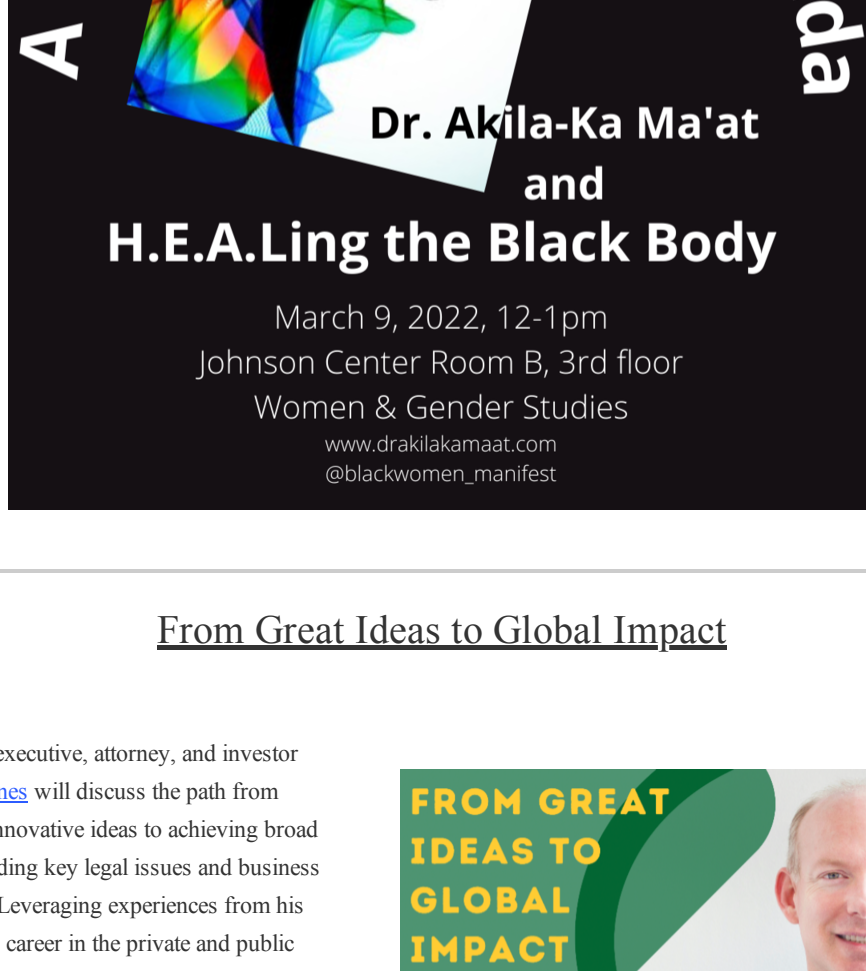
Myeong Lee is an Assistant Professor of Information Science and the Director of the Community Informatics Lab (CIL) in the Department of Information Sciences and Technology. His research is primarily focused on data science for social good, which he says "aims to help solve social and information problems through data-driven approaches."

Click [here](#) to read more about Lee's research.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### A Womanist Research Agenda



### From Great Ideas to Global Impact

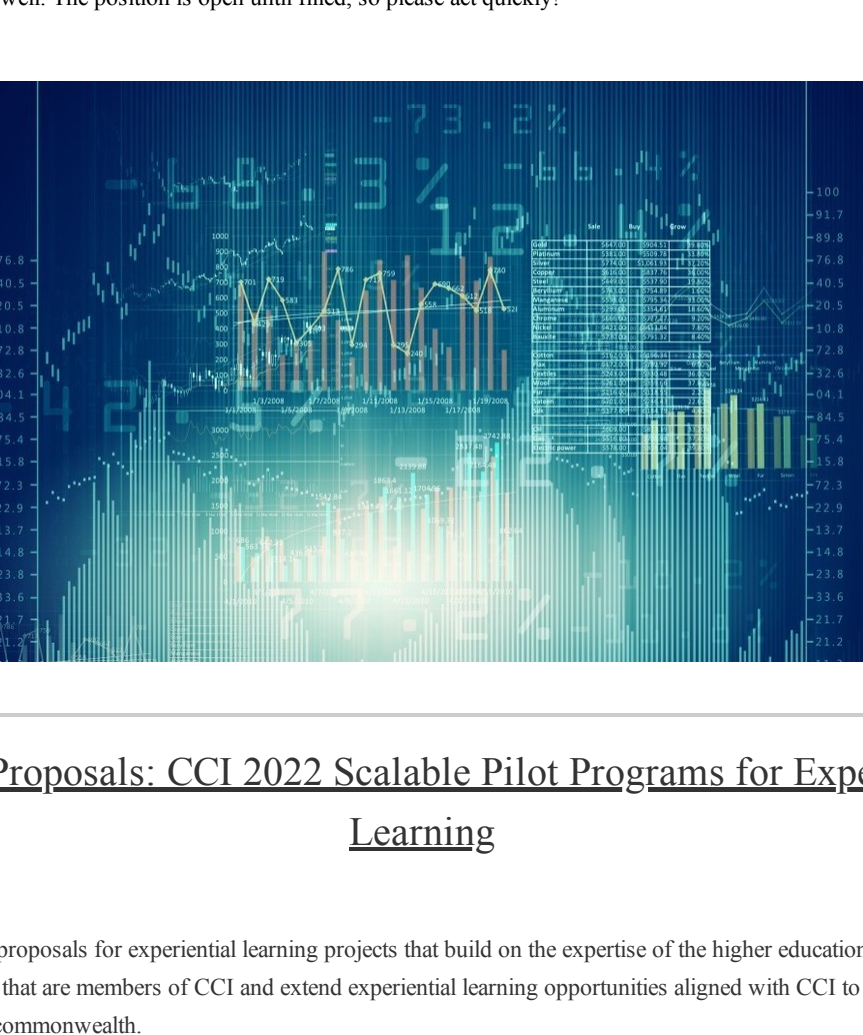
Technology executive, attorney, and investor [Andrew Byrnes](#) will discuss the path from developing innovative ideas to achieving broad impact, including key legal issues and business imperatives. Leveraging experiences from his decades-long career in the private and public sectors working alongside innovators and entrepreneurs, Byrnes will offer insights on leadership, building high-functioning teams, engaging policymakers and other critical stakeholders, and navigating existing and emerging regulatory regimes and challenges.



**Event Date/Time:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 2:00-3:15 pm ET

**Event Location:** GMU Van Metre Auditorium located at 3351 Fairfax Dr., Arlington, VA 22201

Register [here](#).



## VARIOUS OPPORTUNITIES

### Undergraduate Research Position: Data & Diversity in the Arlington Public Schools

In partnership with Mason's [Institute for a Sustainable Earth](#), the [Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) (DEI) of the Arlington Public School District seeks to hire a research assistant who will be charged with locating, organizing, and harmonizing data sets that will allow district administrators to better analyze student, parent, and community data. In addition, this role will assist the Office of DEI in establishing systems for collecting data and generating reports.

This position is well suited for an advanced undergraduate student in data analytics, computer science, modeling, communications, or education who is seeking to make a positive impact. Applications may be submitted via [handshake.gmu.edu](#) (search for Job #6050630), and applicants must verify their eligibility for the Federal Work-Study award as well. The position is open until filled, so please act quickly!

### Call for Proposals: CCI 2022 Scalable Pilot Programs for Experiential Learning

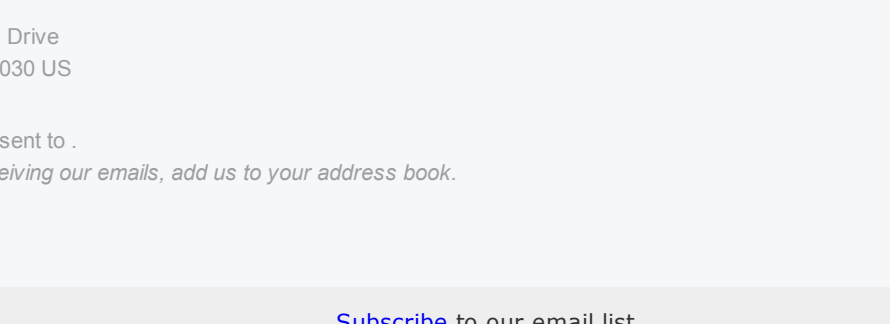
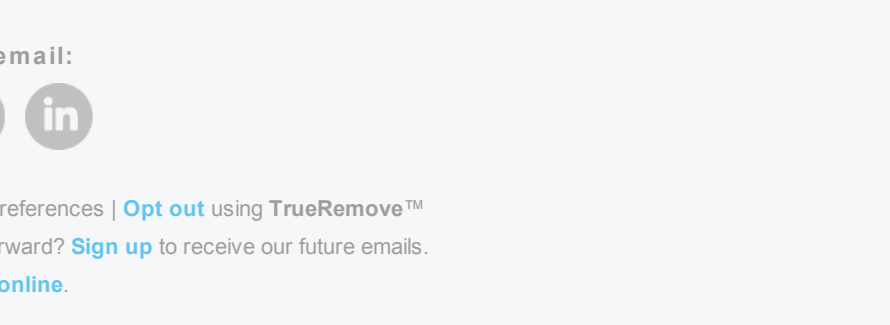
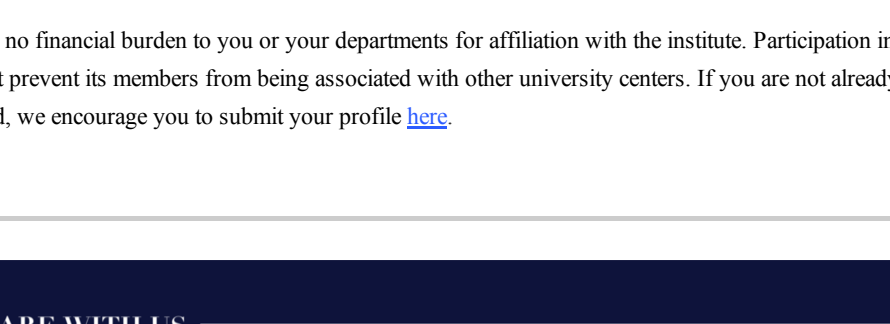
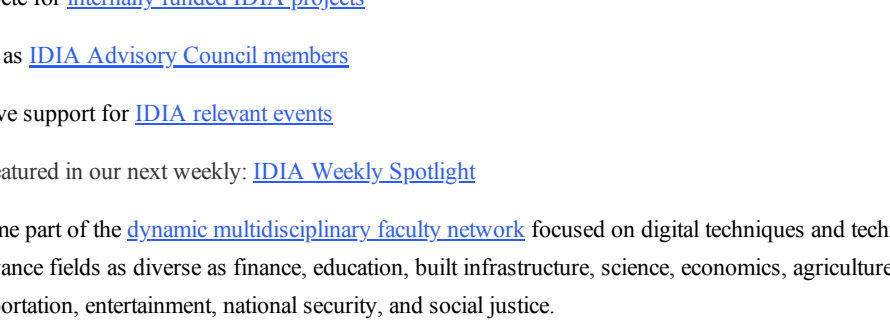
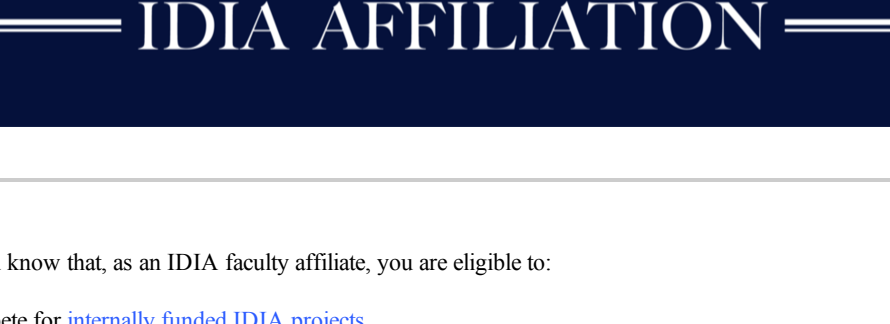
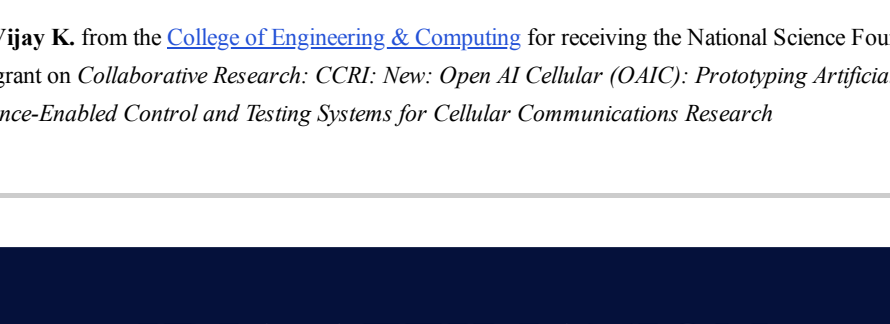
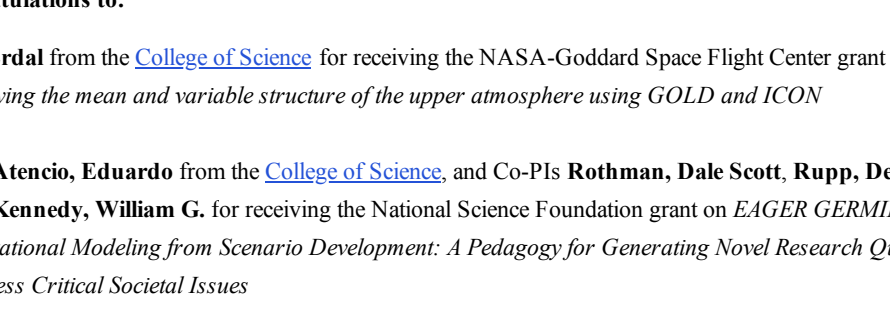
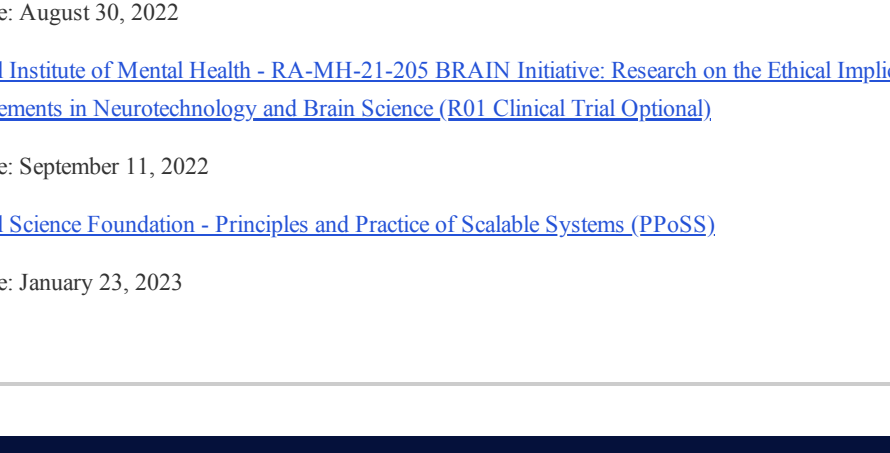
CCI seeks proposals for experiential learning projects that build on the expertise of the higher education institutions that are members of CCI and extend experiential learning opportunities aligned with CCI to students across the commonwealth.

The objective is to enhance students' essential skills to enter the cybersecurity workforce once they finish their current studies; we are particularly interested in projects that expose students to experiences in industry.

Researchers and faculty members at public institutions of higher education in CCI who are deemed eligible by their home institution to serve as a Principal Investigator (PI) on an external grant are eligible to apply.

**Proposal due:** April 1, 2022.

Learn more [here](#).



### Congratulations to:

**Yigit, Erdal** from the [College of Science](#) for receiving the NASA-Goddard Space Flight Center grant on *Studying the mean and variable structure of the upper atmosphere using GOLD and ICON*

**Lopez Atencio, Eduardo** from the [College of Science](#), and Co-PIs **Rothman, Dale Scott, Rupp, Deborah E., and Kennedy, William G.** for receiving the National Science Foundation grant on *EAGER GERMINATION: Computational Modeling from Scenario Development: A Pedagogy for Generating Novel Research Questions to Address Critical Societal Issues*

**Shah, Vijay K.** from the [College of Engineering & Computing](#) for receiving the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant on *Collaborative Research: CCRI: New: Open AI Cellular (OAIIC): Prototyping Artificial Intelligence-Enabled Control and Testing Systems for Cellular Communications Research*

## IDIA AFFILIATION

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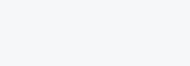
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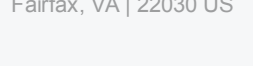
There is no financial burden to you or your departments for affiliation with the institute. Participation in IDIA does not prevent its members from being associated with other university centers. If you are not already affiliated, we encourage you to submit your profile [here](#).

### SHARE WITH US

We are eager to hear from you! As we work with your colleges to compile updates on digital innovation-related research activities at Mason, we would love to hear about your research activities, awards, and recent publications. Please share any successes, concerns, or ideas with us at [idia2@gmu.edu](mailto:idia2@gmu.edu)



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