The IEEE Signal Processing Society (SPS) is launching PROGRESS - an initiative aiming to motivate and support women and under-represented minorities to pursue academic careers in signal processing.

Women and under-represented minorities account for only 11% of the IEEE SPS membership. SPS is determined to focus on this vast, untapped talent pool, because we believe that a more diverse research/work force is better positioned to effectively address the vexing challenges our world is facing.

Research has shown that the percentage of women and under-represented minority undergraduate and graduate science and engineering majors is strongly linked to the percentage of women and under-represented minority faculty. This is because diverse faculty can naturally serve as role models and mentors.

PROGRESS’ overall objective is to improve diversity in the field of signal processing. Towards that goal, the project will proactively motivate and prepare women and other under-represented segments of the population in signal processing to pursue academic positions. PROGRESS includes a workshop as an integral part of the IEEE International Conference on Acoustics Speech and Signal Processing (ICASSP) and the IEEE International Conference on Image Processing (ICIP) as well as follow-up surveys and mentoring teleconferences.

The PROGRESS workshop
The PROGRESS workshop will be held during the ICASSP and ICIP weeks. It will provide the attendees with information, tools and networking opportunities.
The inaugural PROGRESS workshop will take place on October 26 and 27, 2020, during the 2020 IEEE ICIP and will be all virtual. The 2020 PROGRESS oversight committee is given below.

Highlights of the 2020 PROGRESS workshop include:

- An inspirational talk by Prof. Mary (Missy) Cummings, faculty of ECE at Duke University, leading researcher in human-robot interaction and one of the U.S. Navy's first female fighter pilots.
- Professional training on concepts and tools to support career success, including networking and general information from the negotiation literature. Live question and answer sessions will be used for interaction with participants and discussion about how to apply the general concepts to specific country and cultural settings.
- Panel of high profile academics from around the world discussing the faculty hiring process in their countries.
- Panel of funding agencies.
- Talks presenting the latest education trends.
- Panel of diversity faculty from around the world sharing experiences.

The detailed 2020 PROGRESS Workshop agenda can be found here.

Who can attend

Attendance is by application only.

Graduate students who are women or under-represented minorities whose work is in signal processing or related fields are eligible to apply.

Applicants should upload the following materials at this site

- Applicant’s CV
- A statement by the applicant describing their experience, career plans, potential interest in a postdoc or faculty position, and what they expect to get from this workshop. The statement should not be 500 words.

Please note that there is a capacity limit. While non-SPS members are welcome to apply, SPS Members will be considered with higher priority. Information to become member of IEEE SPS can be found at this site.

Registration is free of charge and includes registration to ICIP

Deadline for Application Submission: October 14, 2020

Acceptance Notification: October 21, 2020

For questions please contact: progress_icip2020@cmsworkshops.com
2020 PROGRESS Oversight Committee

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