



Chat N' Chew with Dr. Rhonda Franklin
“Surviving, Striving, and Thriving in Your Graduate Program and Beyond”

Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Noon to 1:30 p.m.

Center for Urban & Transportation Research (CUTR), Boardroom

[Dr. Rhonda Franklin](#) is an electrical engineer who received her B.S. degree in 1985 from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in 1990 and 1995, respectfully, from The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, MI. She is a full Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Minnesota and ECE Director of the Undergraduate Studies program.

Her research area is applied electromagnetics for RF/microwave and millimeter wave applications, in particular passive circuit and antenna design, advanced interconnects/integration/package design techniques using MEMS, microfluidics applications to RF design, and novel materials (e.g. bacteria) and magnetic nano-material's characterization. She has co-authored over 85 refereed journal/conference publications and 4 book chapters as well as supervised 25 graduate students (MS and PhD) and 25 undergraduate students in research. Dr. Franklin is a 1998 **National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER** award recipient and 1998 **Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers** recipient from President Clinton. She is an active member of the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques (MTT-S) society. She served as an Associate Editor for the IEEE Microwave Wireless Components Letters (2012-2015). She also supports the International Microwave Symposium (IMS) as member of the technical planning and steering committees.

On her campus, Dr. Franklin is a 2012 CIC Academic Leadership Fellow and the 2014 Sara Evans Faculty Scholar/Leader Awardee. She is also a Morse Alumni Teaching Award finalist (2012 and 2013). In her profession, she advocates for microwave engineering education and has served as the MTT-S undergraduate student scholarship program chair from 2007-2012 and as a judge and chair for the IMS Best Student Paper Competition several times. She promotes microwave-engineering education to minority students and women through IMS Project Connect, a program co-organized with a group of colleagues in 2014. In the academy, she served and represented STEM women faculty in her college on the University of Minnesota's Provost Women Faculty Cabinet (2005-2010) and supported the formation the IEEE Women in Engineering (WIE) affinity group for undergraduate women in ECE, where she served as their advisor until 2015. She has given presentations to women faculty and women faculty of color in engineering at various NSF Advanced Program meetings on work-life balance. She also is a passionate advocate for graduate education in STEM and presenter at the [University of Michigan's NextProf future faculty program](#).

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