

NE-FFW Planning Team Biographies



Penny J. Beuning

*Associate Professor,
Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology,
Northeastern University*

Penny J. Beuning is an Associate Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology at Northeastern University. Her research on DNA damage tolerance and protein engineering has been recognized with a Cottrell Scholar Award, an NSF CAREER Award, an American Cancer Society Research Scholar Award, and the 2015 Chemical Research in Toxicology Young Investigator Award. The integration of teaching and research form the foundation for her educational pursuits. Prof. Beuning has been active in formal efforts to enhance the recruitment and retention of groups traditionally underrepresented in the sciences and she is currently on the board of the Boston chapter of Graduate Women in Science. Prof. Beuning earned a B.A. in Chemistry from Macalester College in St. Paul, MN, and a Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota (2000) in the field of RNA-protein interactions and RNA biochemistry. She completed postdoctoral research focused on protein-protein interactions that regulate cellular responses to DNA damage at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Raquel Bryant

*MS/Ph.D. Student in Geosciences
University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

Raquel Bryant is a second year MS/Ph.D. student in the Department of Geosciences at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She received her B.A. in Geology/Biology from Brown University in 2015. She studies Cretaceous paleoclimatology and paleoceanography using planktic foraminifera. Currently, she is interested in biotic and oceanographic responses to rapid climate change during warm intervals. She is also a recipient of the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.





Hillary Hadley

*Postdoctoral Research Associate in
Communication Sciences and Disorders
Northeastern University*

Hillary Hadley is a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Department at Northeastern University. She received a B.A. in Psychology from University of Louisville and a Ph.D. in Psychology from University of Massachusetts Amherst. In her research, she uses eye-tracking and EEG to investigate early experience and its impacts on face processing in infants and children.

Kathleen Kenney

*Assistant Director – ADVANCE Office of
Faculty Development
Northeastern University*

Kathleen Kenney is the Assistant Director of the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development at Northeastern University. She collaborates with the Executive Director, faculty, and administration in efforts to diversify the faculty, create an equitable culture, and change institutional processes. Kathleen also works as a Research Assistant in Management and Organizational Development, studying careers and work-life balance. Prior to joining the ADVANCE team, Kathleen worked for the Wellesley Centers for Women, a gender-focused social science research organization based at Wellesley College. Kathleen received her B.A. from Boston College in Political Science and Hispanic Studies and a Master of Public Administration degree at the School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs at Northeastern University. She is currently pursuing a Doctorate in Education concentrating on organizational leadership studies at Northeastern University.





Charisse Pickron

*Ph.D. Candidate in Psychological
and Brain Sciences*

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Charisse Pickron is a Developmental Science doctoral candidate in the Psychological and Brain Sciences department at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Mount Holyoke College and her Master's of Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Her research focuses on better understanding how infants perceive and think about individuals and groups of people in their environment. Charisse uses several behavioral methods including looking time, reaching, and crawling to measure infant cognitive development.

Jan Rinehart

*Executive Director - ADVANCE Office of
Faculty Development
Northeastern University*

Jan Rinehart is Executive Director of the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development at Northeastern University. As Executive Director of ADVANCE she works with faculty and administrators to diversify the faculty, create an equitable culture, and change institutional processes. She has over twenty-five years in higher education with most of her work focused on equity and diversity. Prior to assuming the



Northeastern ADVANCE position, she served as Executive Director of the Rice University ADVANCE Program, the Deputy Director of the Space Engineering Institute, and the Director of Engineering Student Programs at Texas A&M University. She sits on ADVANCE External Advisory Boards for University of Massachusetts-Lowell, University of Delaware, University of Maine, Prairie-View A&M University, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Maryland-Baltimore County. She initiated the Women in Engineering program at Texas A&M University in 1994 and served as WEPAN (Women in Engineering Programs and Advocates Network) President from 2002-2003. She was awarded the WEPAN Founder's Award in 2011, the Rice Women's Resource Center Impact Award in 2010; the Texas A&M Enhancing Diversity Award; and the Women's Week Outstanding Staff award. She received her M.S. in Higher Education Administration from Texas A&M University and a B.S. in secondary education from Abilene Christian University.