<u>**WiTT – April 27 Monthly Meeting – Speaker Bios**</u>

Dr. Ambareen Siraj is a professor of Computer Science and the founding director of Tennessee Tech's Cybersecurity Education, Research and Outreach Center (CEROC). She has served as the leader on several NSF and NSA education and workforce development grants. She has secured external grants totaling $7.6 million through 2020.

Dr. Siraj's research focus is on security in cyber-physical systems, Internet of Things, situation assessment in network security, security education and workforce development. She has authored or co-authored more than 50 publications.

Dr. Siraj is passionate about training the next generation of cybersecurity professionals, and encouraging women and other minorities to pursue an education in Computer Science and other STEM programs. She is the founder of the Women in CyberSecurity (WiCyS) organization, an initiative to recruit, retain and advance women in cybersecurity. Her efforts to educate students and enhance the cybersecurity field of study goes beyond classes, research, outreach projects, workshops and conferences.

She is a frequent speaker in various cybersecurity conferences on topics ranging from education, curriculum, workforce development, outreach, security issues & solutions for cyber-physical systems to diversity and inclusion in cybersecurity. She has addressed the Congressional House Committee on Science and Technology Subcommittee on Research and Technology in 2020 on "Developing the U.S. Cybersecurity Workforce".

Dr. Siraj is recipient of the -Colloquium for Information Systems Security Education Exceptional Leadership in Education Award in 2018 and ABET Claire L. Felbinger Award for Diversity and Inclusion in 2020.

Michelle Nguyen, a graduate of Virginia Tech, has spent 15 years implementing software and providing IT services to Fortune 100 companies. She currently serves as a Board Member for the Women's Society of Cyberjutsu (WSC) and was previously the Director of Enterprise Sales for Remediant, a cybersecurity software startup. Her specialty is working with early-stage cybersecurity startups to bring disruptive solutions to the market and partnering with customers to adopt new technology to secure their business. In her spare time, Michelle mentors at-risk youth in New York City and advocates for Women in Technology and Cybersecurity through speaking panels at various conferences and WSC. She is passionate about bridging the gender gap in tech at an early age, and volunteers with the Cyberjutsu Girl's Academy, an interactive STEM program for middle school aged girls. She was recognized as a 2019 Top 25 Women in Cybersecurity by Cyber Defense Magazine.