

For LACCEI – June 2023 - INVOLVEMENT WITH LACCEI – Renetta Garrison Tull

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I have been involved with LACCEI since the Panama conference in 2012. It changed my life, and became the origin of my international service mission. I am dedicated to seeing engineering used as a tool to promote both advancement and peace, through leadership development of faculty and students. During the Panama conference, I met with several groups of students and I worked to prepare them for graduate studies. The presentation led to a co-authored paper: *“Preparing for Engineering and STEM Graduate/Post-Graduate Masters and Doctoral Programs,”* which also has a chapter translated into Spanish. The paper was later used at student research conferences in Puerto Rico to assist students with preparation for graduate school during my work with the former Universidad Metropolitana (now Universidad Ana G. Méndez) and the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez. I have co-authored papers in English and Spanish about systems of support for graduate students such as *“Desde la Licenciatura Hasta el Doctorado: Los Sistemas de Apoyos Para Estudiantes de Posgrado en Instituciones Fuera de Su País y Lejos de Casa,”* and I was a co-author for the first volume of the Matilda series which recognizes women in engineering. My co-authored chapter in Spanish was: *“Contrarrestando el “Efecto Matilda” por medio de la participación de mujeres en ingeniería de América Latina durante las conferencias de LACCEI.”*

During LACCEI’s 2013 conference in Mexico, and during the 2013 World Engineering Education Forum in Cartagena, Colombia, I assisted with efforts to elevate the visibility of women in engineering, and to provide additional mentoring opportunities for students. I later became Chair for the Organization of American States/Engineering for the Americas OAS/EftA Women in STEM and Diversity Forum, and served as Vice President of Initiatives for LACCEI in 2017. I led the *Mujeres en STEM y Diversidad* forums in Ecuador, Costa Rica, and Peru, and worked closely with student leaders to co-design LACCEI student forum programming to contribute to their leadership and professional development. I have written several grants to the National Science Foundation to bring delegations of faculty and students to LACCEI annually to give presentations, participate in sessions, and connect to consider solutions to engineering challenges, e.g., water salinity, access to electricity, cultural competencies. I have been a mentor to university administrators, professors, and students. My work in LACCEI, el “Efecto Jessica” (The Jessica Effect – familial and cultural values in educational settings), mentoring, and connection of humanitarian engineering and student involvement with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), “Humans over Humanoids” discussion, lab climate, etc. have been recognized through invitations to the Gender Summit in Mexico City, discussions at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, and meetings in Taiwan and Beijing. Work from LACCEI influenced my co-authored chapter, “Women in Engineering,” published in UNESCO’s 2021 “Engineering for sustainable development: delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals,” and my discussions in Xalapa, Mexico on “Women in Technology,” which included being interviewed on Spanish radio station, Radio Universidad Veracruzana 90.5 FM XHRUV.

My interest in Vice President for Initiatives 2023-24 is based on working with the LACCEI leadership, faculty, and students to create additional opportunities for student leadership and cultural connections that will contribute to development of a global citizenry. I look forward to proposing plans that will elevate student engagement and opportunities to collaborate on significant projects connected to the UN’s SDGs, both within and outside of Latin America. Moreover, in an effort to serve the stakeholders of the organization, I am interested in working with the leadership on the vision to expand the hemispheric work of LACCEI to more universities in both Latin America and the Caribbean. I’ve also been working to foster relationships and partnerships across organizations, e.g., universities, corporations, government entities, and non-profit groups, and I look forward to leveraging opportunities to serve LACCEI. I am especially focused on advocating for engineering education practices (competencies, upskilling, growth mindset, design-thinking) that can increase preparation for mobility and research collaborations. My work over the years has shown that I can develop and implement programs that benefit both faculty and students, and work with diverse groups to maximize the collective impact. I look forward to having a chance to support the vision of LACCEI’s leadership, and work with colleagues across countries for mutual purposes that will benefit the organization-at-large.