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Contact: Nathan Kahl
n.kahl@asee.org

Bevlee Watford Assumes Presidency of National Engineering Education Association

Bevlee Watford assumes the presidency of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) at the society's annual conference in Columbus, OH on June 28. Watford is the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech.

Watford has been an active member of ASEE since 1986, serving the organization in multiple capacities. "ASEE is a great organization for many reasons, including its focus on the education of engineers across all disciplines," said Watford. "As President, I will work to increase the visibility of ASEE and its work at the national and international levels, creating transformative partnerships with strategic organizations to achieve real and lasting change."

She follows Louis Martin-Vega, Dean of the School of Engineering at North Carolina State University, as president. The incoming president-elect is Stephanie Farrell, professor and founding chair of Experiential Engineering Education in the College of Engineering at Rowan University. Watford will serve one year as president, and one year as immediate past president.

She has held elected office in both the Women in Engineering and the Minorities in Engineering Divisions. She chaired the Diversity Task Force that resulted in the creation of the ASEE Diversity Strategic Plan as well as a standing Diversity Committee. She most recently served as First VP and VP for External Affairs working to increase membership through strategic partnerships. She currently serves as an associate editor of the journal *Advances in Engineering Education*. In 2010, she was elected a Fellow of ASEE.

Professionally, from 2010-2011 she served as Virginia Tech's Interim Department Head of Engineering Education. From 2005-2007 she served as a program manager in the Division of Undergraduate Education for the National Science Foundation; most recently (2013-2015) she served as the program director for broadening participation in the Division of Engineering Education and Centers. She is the Founding Director of the Center for the Enhancement of Engineering Diversity (CEED, 1992). She has secured more than \$11.5 million dollars in funding and support for the CEED and other undergraduate initiatives from a variety of sources.

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She received her B.S. in Mining Engineering and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research from Virginia Tech. Her research activities have focused on the recruitment and retention of students in engineering, with a particular emphasis on underrepresented students.

Founded in 1893, ASEE is a nonprofit organization committed to furthering education in engineering and engineering technology. It accomplishes this mission by promoting excellence in instruction, research, public service, and practice; exercising worldwide leadership; fostering the technological education of society; and providing quality products and services to members.

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