



## Chemical Engineering Colloquium Trailblazer Lectureship

April 15, 2026 | 12:00–1:00pm | Fuller Upper, Perreault Hall

### Sowing The Seeds of Diversity in Engineering



*Presented by*

## Jennifer Sinclair Curtis

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The lack of women and underrepresented minorities (URM) in engineering is a problem that no single solution can address. Not only are there the pipeline issues, but the challenges these groups face in navigating their careers need to be addressed. This presentation will share some of the activities/practices that have been adopted at the University of California, Davis to sow the seeds of diversity. The engineering college launched Avenue-E, a community college transfer program designed to eliminate barriers that hold back women and underrepresented minorities in engineering and computer science. Another core component of changing the landscape is ensuring that women and URM in engineering see other women and URM at all levels. UC Davis received an NSF-ADVANCE grant which aimed to increase the participation and advancement of women in academic science and engineering careers. Among many projects, more than 1,000 faculty members have been trained about best practices for faculty recruitment and implicit bias. Central oversight of faculty hiring to ensure diversity and inclusivity has been established and commitment to diversity remains a key recruitment value. Contributions to diversity are considered in all merit and promotion review actions, and superior contributions to diversity are recognized and rewarded. Due to these initiatives, UC Davis has shown dramatic changes at all levels. Forbes named UC Davis the Best College for women in STEM fields, based on a metric that includes persistence to graduation and the value of education received.

~ Luncheon Reception to follow by invitation only ~  
Innovation Studios, Room 203 1:15 – 2:30pm



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