



*We dedicate this conference to  
the loving memory of our dear  
colleague and sister,  
Dr. Marilyn Lillith Minus.*

**An outstanding scientist and exceptional human being,  
Marilyn embodied courage, resilience, compassion,  
and excellence.**

These qualities shone through in all her endeavors as a teacher, mentor, researcher, leader, and friend. Originally from Freeport, Bahamas, she earned the PhD degree in Polymer Engineering from Georgia Tech and was recruited by the College of Engineering at Northeastern University. She joined the faculty here in 2010 as an Assistant Professor of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (MIE). An expert in polymers and nanomaterials, she quickly rose to the rank of full Professor and became chair of the MIE department. She was known as kind, caring, and loving to all and was adored and revered by her students. As a department chair she led with compassion and vision, generously giving her time, energy, and support to her colleagues and students. A talented designer, she used her iPad to design parts of her lab space and also designed her home in Berkley, Massachusetts. Marilyn actively supported and contributed to WOCIA, serving as a panelist. With her courageous resilience and faith, she fought back cancer multiple times before it finally took her from us at age 46.\* We hope that her loving and compassionate spirit will shine over this conference and in the hearts of all of us.

\* **The Marilyn L. Minus Scholarship** honors the legacy of Dr. Minus by supporting full-time undergraduate students in the College of Engineering at Northeastern University who embody her values of integrity, courage, and commitment to making the world a better place through their passion for science and engineering. *Candidates must be full-time undergraduate students at Northeastern and be a member of the Black Engineering Student Society (or any successor thereof). It is the donor's preference that students be majoring in Mechanical or Industrial Engineering, and/or have financial need. To learn more about this scholarship, please contact the ADVANCE Office of Faculty Development at [northeasternadvance@northeastern.edu](mailto:northeasternadvance@northeastern.edu).*