

COMMHIT26 SPEAKER

Karen Panetta

PHD, NAE, NAI FELLOW, IEEE FELLOW, AIAA FELLOW, EURASC FELLOW, AAIA FELLOW, NASA JOVE FELLOW

Tufts University Dean of Graduate Education for the School of Engineering

Inventor Hall of Fame Inductee

2026 IEEE Mildred Dresselhaus Medal Recipient

ON STAGE AT COMMHIT26

THU, DEC 10
3–3:45pm

Academic–Community Partnerships Advancing Better Care Panel

PANEL

Facilitated by Kendra Siler · with Glenn Barnes, Rayna Letourneau, Riley T. Krotz, Janeen M. Blythe

FRI, DEC 11
11am–12pm

A Round Table Discussion with Max Planck on the Frontiers of Brain Science

PANEL

With Vidhya Rangaraju, Sarah A. Stern, Kendra Siler

ABOUT KAREN

Dr. Karen Panetta is a Distinguished Professor and the Dean of graduate engineering education in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Tufts University.

She also holds secondary appointments in Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, and the Tufts School of Dental Medicine. As Director of the Panetta Vision and Sensing System Laboratory, her research and inventions include efficient algorithms for AI, simulation, modeling, signal, and image processing for ocean engineering, biomedical, and security applications. Her honors include the 2012 IEEE Ethical Practices Award, the Harriet B. Rigas Award for Outstanding Educator, and the 2011 Presidential Award for Engineering and Science Education and Mentoring, presented by President Obama for her Nerd Girls Program to empower young women in STEM. She is the VP of the IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society and Editor-in-Chief of the award-winning IEEE Women in Engineering Magazine, and has served as IEEE-USA VP of communications and public affairs and as IEEE Women in Engineering Chair. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineers, and a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, IEEE, EASA, AAIA, NASA JOVE, and AAAS. Dr. Panetta received her B.S. in computer engineering from Boston University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in electrical engineering from Northeastern University.

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