Loretta H. Cheeks Profile

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Revolutionary, outspoken, and dedicated, are all words that describe the essence of Loretta H. Cheeks. Her devotion to advancing technology, STEM K-12 outreach, and disability and women's advocacy has been the driving force behind her passion for pursuing a PhD. Loretta is a full-time PhD graduate student as an Adobe Foundation GEM Fellow at Arizona State University, Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering in the Department of Computing, Informatics and Decision Systems Engineering. Her research focuses on news frames of conflict over dynamic complex problems and its' migration path across online social networks: current complex problem being water insecurity in the Southwest region of the United States. This problem is grounded in data mining, network theory and graph theory. Her advisor is Professor Dr. Arunabha Sen. Prior to starting a PhD program, she enjoyed a rich career as a principal engineer with roles as systems, software and project lead. She has developed, deployed, and led various teams within the communications, radio, avionics, instrumentation & control and chemical industries for Fortune 500 corporations. Loretta was selected as the 2014 GEM Fellow of the Year, an award that recognizes the significant contribution of a graduate student.

Loretta is a leader and active member of her community and is deeply committed to programs aimed at increasing STEM student interest, particularly in communities that are under-served and under-represented. Born in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Loretta earned a Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degree in Computer Science from Southern University A&M and a Masters of Business Administration degree in Technology Management from the University of Phoenix.

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/LorettaHCheeks

Elected Board Member, Arizona Center for Disability Law, 2010 to Current
Elected Board Member for Community Information & Referral, 2007-2011
Appointed City of Peoria United Community Action Network, 2011 to Current
Appointed Committee Member, Black Women in Computing, 2014 to Current
Appointed Advisory Board Member, Southern University CS Department, 2005 to 2010
Advisory Board Member, Anthem College Online, 2006 – 2009
Appointed Peoria City Council, Transportation Committee, 2004

Women in Business Award, Phoenix Business Journal, 2011
Athena Award Nominee, Phoenix Business Journal, , 2010
Dr. Charles Campbell Outstanding Alumna Award, 2008
Volunteer of the Year, Community Information & Referral, 2006

StrongTIES STEM Program, Founder, 2014