



# ADAM SMITH

WASHINGTON'S 9TH DISTRICT

## Ninth District Tech Fair

*Hosted by the Office of Congressman Adam Smith*

*Saturday, April 22 at 1:00 PM PT at Federal Way Library*

### Panelist Bios

**Celeste Atchison** was born and raised in Louisville Kentucky, and received her Bachelor's Degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Louisville in 2018. While in undergrad Celeste worked several internships in additive manufacturing (3D Printing) – first at an Underwriter Laboratories (UL) facility, and later at a GE facility. She graduated determined to continue a career with a focus in additive manufacturing technology, which ultimately led her to Blue Origin. Today Celeste leads a team of a dozen engineers working to support design, qualification, and acceptance of 3D printed rocket engine components. Outside of work Celeste nurtures many passions - ceramics, knitting, sewing, and gardening. She is a founding member and leader of New Mercury, a community organization within Blue Origin which supports women and gender diverse team members; and has been an active member in the Society of Women Engineers. A firm believer that it's 'difficult to be what you can't see,' Celeste hopes to support other women, girls, and LGBTQ+ folks through STEM outreach and mentorship.

**Dr. Jeanne Ting Chowning** is the Associate Vice President of Science Education in the Office of Education and Training at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle. For over 25 years, she has focused her professional efforts on supporting science teachers and promoting equity for students furthest from opportunity. Her team runs educational programs for high school students and teachers that open windows to cutting-edge molecular biology and topics such as DNA technologies, cancer research, and health inequities. She is the Principal Investigator on multiple federal science education grants centered on teacher professional learning, curriculum development, and student research experiences. Trained as a learning scientist, her current research interests center on the development of scientific interest, identity, and sense of belonging in youth from marginalized groups; the social and cultural dimensions of science; and the role of teacher professional development and learning communities in promoting productive classroom discourse. Dr. Chowning has held national leadership roles including serving as the Director of the National Science Teaching Association's District XVII, which encompasses Alaska, Oregon, and Washington. In 2019, she was honored for Excellence in STEM Education/Outreach by the Seattle-area chapter of the Association for Women in Science. She earned a BA in Biology from Cornell University and a BFA in Fine Art from the San Francisco Art Institute. In addition, Dr. Chowning received an MS in Biology Education and a PhD in Learning Sciences/Science Education from the University of Washington.

**Iris R. Childress** is a technology executive with a background in data center operations and cloud technology. Iris has a passion for enabling economic empowerment through technology, especially for women. Currently at Microsoft, Iris leads global technical programs aimed at revenue acceleration, process optimization, and time-to-market agility for Microsoft's cloud solutions. Iris serves on the boards of Global Traveler Magazine and Above PAR Advisors LLC. She is a member of the Air Force Association of Graduates, the Association of the United



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States Army, and the Links, Incorporated. Iris earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

**Carissa Hahn** is the Communications Workers of America (CWA)'s Legislative and Political Coordinator for Washington State, the Next Generation Coordinator for CWA District 7, and currently serves as the Executive Vice-President of CWA/WashTech Local 37083. Carissa was born in Anchorage, Alaska, but she has called Snohomish County home since age ten, most recently in the city of Marysville. She lives with her partner and two daughters and wants to create a better world for all of them. Carissa began working for the Nation's largest telecommunications company in 2013 and quickly became involved in the worker's Union- CWA. Starting as a shop steward in 2014, she began supporting District and National campaigns in organizing and legislative work as a rank-and-file member. After being elected as Executive Vice-President for Local 37083 in 2016, in 2017 she was selected to coordinate the young worker and legislative programs fulltime. As a leader at CWA, Carissa has prioritized building strong programs that are member-lead and that provide opportunities for workers to make a difference in their workplaces and communities.

**Nancy Harris** is an instructor at Ada Developers Academy, a non-profit coding school for women and gender-expansive folks. She has a B.A. in Psychology, a graduate certificate in Software Design and Development, and an M.A. in Secondary Teaching. She spent four years working as a Software Engineer, most notably at Amazon, before moving to education. She has a passion for equity in both education and in the tech industry.