

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Margie Vela



Dr. Margie Vela is a senior leader at Amazon Web Services (AWS) and a key figure in Amazon’s Machine Learning University (MLU) initiatives. She focuses on building large-scale academic–industry partnerships that expand access to artificial intelligence and machine learning education, particularly for underserved and underrepresented communities.

With a background spanning STEM research, education, and diversity initiatives, Dr. Vela has led national programs that support HBCUs and other institutions in integrating AI/ML into their curricula. She has previously worked with organizations like the National Science Foundation (NSF) and higher-education programs to promote equity in STEM fields.

At AWS MLU, she helps drive collaborations between universities, faculty, and industry experts to scale AI education, workforce development, and research innovation—aiming to prepare the next generation of AI leaders.