HACK4SPACE Speaker Bios

a data science hackathon brought to you by DePaul University & IBM

David Meza, Branch Chief People Analytics and Sr. Data Scientist, NASA

David Meza currently serves as Branch Chief People Analytics and Sr. Data Scientist at NASA Headquarters and formerly Chief Knowledge Architect at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC). During his tenure at NASA, he has worked in all aspects of the Information Technology field developing and deploying several IT systems. In his role at JSC, he established the Knowledge Architecture framework, promoting a viewpoint of organizational leadership that stresses the use of knowledge management, informatics and data science as methods to turn data into actionable knowledge. He holds a Master's in Engineering Management from the University of Houston Clear Lake and a Doctorate in Education.

Kevin Murphy, NASA's Chief Science Data Officer, NASA

Kevin Murphy is the Chief Science Data Officer for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. In his current role he provides leadership for implementing SMD's Open Science initiatives and manages the Earth Science Data System program – one of the largest repositories of Earth observing data on the planet. Murphy's role in this newly-created position, Chief Science Data Officer is to identify and implement capabilities for the Agency's science divisions as well as to advance the state of the art in open sourced science, cloud computing, machine learning, and other data management and analysis activities. Kevin Murphy received his Bachelors of Art in Geography from Clark University, and Masters of Art in Geography from the

University of Maryland. He has received the NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal, Robert H. Goddard Exceptional Achievement for Engineering Award, and was recognized in 2016 with as a Charles S. Falkenberg Awardee. The award honors an -early- to -mid--career scientist who has contributed to the quality of life, economic opportunities, and stewardship of the planet through the use of Earth science information and to the public awareness of the importance of understanding our planet. Mr. Murphy was also honored in 2017 as one of the Federal 100 Awardees by FWC. The award recognizes government and industry leaders for their achievements and contributions to the government IT community. He lives in Riva, Maryland with his wife, son, and dog – but also can be found sailing the Atlantic.

Raghu Kiran Ganti, Principal Research Staff Member, IBM

Raghu Ganti is a Principal Research Staff Member at IBM's T J Watson Research Center. His primary research interests are in the area of AI and ML at scale. He has also received numerous outstanding technical awards from IBM for his contributions both to research advancements as well as business impact.

Alex Osadchyy, Sr. Technical Solution Architect| Honored member of NSLS, IBM

In current role at IBM, Alex works with key System Z Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) to guide their journey to and growth of hybrid cloud and data solutions based on the enterprise platform for mission-critical applications - IBM Z and LinuxONE. Solution architect, engineering manager and software developer with over 17 years of experience in creating software and solutions ranging from low level network drivers to multi-cloud platforms. With business insights, doctoral backgrounds and RnD experience leverages leadership and scientific approach for strategic solutions. Long track of achievements in startups and global corporations. Developed products that were deployed in 30+ countries. Respected inventor and author of books and research articles. Including 20 patents in US and globally. Created solutions with the concern on technical decisions and how they impact the business outcomes. Worked and lead the teams globally in USA, Japan, Germany, Eastern Europe, India and Philippines.

Colin Sheming, Senior Data Scientist, IBM Space Tech

Colin Alstad is a senior data scientist in IBM's Blue Tech Innovation Lab where he focuses on applications of machine learning, mathematics, and statistics to various problems in the commercial space industry including space situational awareness and Earth observation. He has over a decade of experience in the data science and applied research spaces across different industry verticals ranging from quantitative finance to bioinformatics and insurance.

Dr. Michael Potter, ISC Co-founder

Geeks Without Frontiers and is a business and social entrepreneur. Michael was appointed to the team advising the US FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee regarding strategies for helping to close the digital divide in the US. Potter is the Director of the space documentary, "Orphans of Apollo." Potter has served on two Space Policy Presidential Transition projects.

Fabio Teixeira, Founder & CEO, Hypercubes

Fabio Teixeira is Brazilian-born American entrepreneur founder and CEO of Hypercubes, a Space Startup born on the premises of Nasa Ames in California with deep roots at International Space University and Singularity University. With degrees in electrical and software engineering, Mr. Teixeira is an Analog Astronaut building a planetary coalition of engineers, committed to rebuilding a whole new planet Earth through modern science, space technologies, and a new breed of engineers. He calls them TERRAFORMES.

Melissa Sassi, Chief Penguin, Student & Entrepreneur Experience, IBM

As IBM Z's Chief Penguin, Melissa created her own IBM penguin title and leads Student & Entrepreneur Experience worldwide at IBM.

She's a Call for Code Judge focused on solving the world's challenges via tech innovation.

Sassi has created a variety of flagship events during her tenure with IBM, including CodeTheCurve – a hackathon that made the homepage of UN News and opensource.com for her efforts to fight back against COVID-19 through technology and data science. She also created the #Z4Good Ideathon that's all about solving the world's digital inclusion challenges through youth-led engagement. Lastly, she is the Executive Producer of The Human Code, an event she's spearheading with celebrities such as Terence Lewis (Bollywood choreographer) where she brings poetry, storytelling, dance, and music together in an experiential, virtual event focused on inspiring greater diversity and inclusion in tech.

In her Entrepreneur Experience capacity, Melissa also created and leads IBM Hyper Protect Accelerator with 45 startups in her portfolio that will be growing to 100 early-stage startups by the end of 2021. She enables fintech, healthtech, and insurtech startups to build and scale their solution with a lens on incorporating confidential computing via IBM's Hyper Protect Services product portfolio.

Prior to IBM, Melissa was an energy and internet access impact investor at Microsoft and led Microsoft's celebrity talent management, as well as creative agency management globally for its Empowering campaigns.

As Founder & CEO of MentorNations, Melissa created a youth-led digital skills movement teaching tens of thousands of youth to code in twelve countries. She's Chair of IEEE's Digital Intelligence Working Group & Founding Member of

Coalition for Digital Intelligence with WEF, OECD, IEEE & DQ Institute. She holds several Board positions in digital inclusion nonprofits.

As a PhD candidate, she researches the digital inclusion of underserved communities. She serves on a UN Round Table for the High-Level Panel for Digital Cooperation, chaired by Jack Ma and Melinda Gates with advisory leadership from Vint Cert – the Father of the Internet. Melissa is an avid speaker on digital skills and inclusion, tech entrepreneurship, community building, youth empowerment, imposter syndrome & personal branding.