

Holly Yanco

Chair and Professor

Richard A. Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences
University of Massachusetts Lowell



Recent Awards and Honors

- Elected as Fellow of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) “for foundational contributions to the field of human-robot interaction and for exceptional leadership in education and broadening participation,” 2021
- Selected as one of 35 Women in Robotics Engineering and Science (WiRES) who have made significant contributions in the past 35 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) conferences, 2022
- Commonwealth of Massachusetts Citation for Outstanding Performance, 2017
- Distinguished University Professor, University of Massachusetts Lowell, 2015
- Woman to Watch Award, Mass High Tech, 2013

Involvement in CRA Activities

CRA has provided me with many opportunities for career growth and service:

- I have been a CCC Council member since 2020. (I was asked to stay on for a fourth year)
- I led the sessions on AI Systems and Possible Impacts on Diversity and Inclusion at the Boston LEVEL UP Workshop in November 2023
- I was a CI Fellows reviewer in 2020 and 2021
- I served on the Socially Assistive Robots panel at the Visions 2025: Interacting With the Computers All Around Us Workshop, run by the Computing Research Association (CRA) and National Science Foundation (NSF) in Washington DC in May 2014
- I now attend Snowbird as Chair of the Richard A. Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences
- In the past, I attended in my role as CCC Council member and was a panelist in 2008
- As Chair, I complete the Taulbee Survey and ensure that our department participates in Data Buddies
- As a junior faculty member, I attended CRA-WP workshops

Other Relevant Experience

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Doctoral Dissertation Award Committee, 2023 - present
- Co-Chair, Steering Committee, ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction, 2013-2016
- General Chair, 2012 ACM/IEEE Conference on Human-Robot Interaction
- Robotics Cluster, Mass Technology Leadership Council (MassTLC): Co-Chair, 2015-2019; Advisory Board, 2008-2015
- Executive Council, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), 2006-2009

Research Interests

- Robotics and AI
- Human-robot interaction
- Fostering trust in autonomous systems

- Explainable systems
- Metrics and evaluation methods for autonomous systems
- Use of robotics and AI in K-12 education for broadening participation in computing

Personal Statement

I am a Distinguished University Professor and Chair of the Richard A. Miner School of Computer & Information Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. My service includes CRA's CCC Council, co-chairing the Steering Committee for the ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction, and Executive Council of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI). For over 25 years, I have assembled and led a wide range of interdisciplinary collaborations to solve open problems in robotics and AI. As a CRA Board member, I will focus on CS policy, including increasing research funding, and broadening participation in our profession.