



GSA Women's Leadership Initiative Presents

LUNCH *and* LEARN

April 2025 | Austin, TX



Made Possible By: SILICON LABS

About the Event



THE PURPOSE

The GSA WLI Lunch and Learn series aims to offer a blend of executive and technical topics, featuring women who are leaders in their respective fields. Under the theme “Pathway to Success”, these empowering events also provide an excellent opportunity for professionals from different companies in the semiconductor industry to connect, network, and gain valuable insights, which is essential for visibility and professional growth.

On April 15th WLI hosted a Lunch and Learn at Silicon Labs’ offices in Austin which had over 100 people in attendance.

A BIG Thank You to Silicon Labs for hosting the event!

Our Speakers

Keynote Speaker



APRIL OLIVER

VP OF ETHICS & COMPLIANCE
MICRON

Panel Moderator



GOZDE FIDAN

SR. DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING
SILICON LABS, WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER

Panelists



RENEE PARENTE

PROGRAM MANAGEMENT
DIRECTOR
AMD



LI SUN

SENIOR TECHNICAL LEADER IN
HARDWARE ENGINEERING
CISCO



**AMRUTHA
RACHAKONDA**

HARDWARE THERMAL ENGINEER
META



GARIMA SHARDA

VP OF ENGINEERING
SILICON LABS

Event Recap



The event began with a breakfast session, allowing the attendees and speakers an initial opportunity to meet each other and network. Soon after, Christabel Ketchersid, Director of Internal Audit at Silicon Labs presented the opening remarks and introduced the Keynote Speaker, April Oliver, VP of Ethics & Compliance at Micron. April underscored the importance of embracing challenges as a driver for personal and professional development, emphasizing that sustained well-being is fundamental to navigating periods of adversity. April emphasized the importance of small, consistent habits and a holistic approach to health, encouraging attendees to cultivate balance across mental, physical, and emotional well-being. She offered practical strategies for managing stress—such as journaling, meditation, creative expression and any enjoyable form of movement.

Event Recap



The keynote concluded with practical guidance on navigating stressful times, highlighting kindness and empathy as forms of strength that cultivate positive and supportive team environments.

Next, an engaging panel discussion was moderated by Gozde Fidan, Silicon Labs, and featured panelists Renee Parente, AMD; Li Sun, Cisco; Amrutha Rachakonda, Meta; and Garima Sharda, Silicon Labs. The panelists shared their stories and insights on various aspects of success from their career journeys.

Event Recap



The panel discussion touched on several key themes including:

- Speak Up: Use your voice confidently and ask questions.
 - Own Your Path: Advocate for yourself and take charge of your career.
 - Network Intentionally: Prioritize meaningful connections over quantity. Have a Mentor.
 - Be Present: Engage fully in your personal life.
 - Stay Open: Say yes to opportunities—others may see your potential before you do.
 - Choose Advice Wisely: Trust your uniqueness; not all advice fits everyone.
 - Lead Supportively: Create environments where others can thrive.
 - Be Proactive: Seek out tasks that lead to growth—don't wait to be asked.
 - Take Control: Your career is yours to shape—own the journey.
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Event Recap



After the enlightening panel discussion, the attendees and speakers had the opportunity to network over lunch. The atmosphere was buzzing with energy as attendees and speakers came together to share experiences and build meaningful connections. We extend our sincerest gratitude to April Oliver for serving as the esteemed keynote speaker at this event.

We also thank our amazing speakers - Gozde, Renee, Li, Amrutha, and Garima, for sharing their incredible stories and advice during the panel discussion.

A special thank you to Silicon Labs for hosting this memorable event and providing a supportive environment for the WLI community to connect and grow!

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Testimonials

I was honored to join today's GSA Women's Leadership Initiative panel of dynamic leaders to share lessons learned, offer advice for our younger selves, and explore insights on navigating career journeys. This phenomenal gathering, centered on 'Pathways to Success,' truly highlighted the importance of connection, empowerment, and collective growth.

Renee Parente, AMD

I had the pleasure of attending the GSA Women's Leadership Initiative Lunch & Learn at Silicon Labs today. It was an incredible opportunity to network with inspiring women, both technical and non-technical experts, from across various semiconductor companies who are driving innovation and making a meaningful impact in the industry.

Marybecca Wilson, Silicon Labs

Attending the GSA WLI event was an exceptional experience, filled with great energy and the company of smart, like-minded women. The camaraderie established before the keynote and panel sessions, along with the insightful technology discussions on AI for the semiconductor business, were standout highlights for me.

Megha Sarang, Intel

Had a fantastic time at the recent GSA Women's Leadership Initiative event hosted by Silicon Labs! The speakers were truly inspiring, keeping it real throughout. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and reconnect with former coworkers. Thank you for such a wonderful event!

Diana Borrero, Silicon Labs

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