



GSA Women's Leadership Initiative Presents

# LUNCH *and* LEARN

February 4, 2026 | San Jose, CA



Hosted By:  Asteralabs®

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# About the Event



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 February 4th, we held our 2026 California Lunch and Learn event at Astera Labs offices in San Jose with over 100 attendees from various companies. The event featured an inspiring keynote address, dynamic discussions, and shared insights, making it a memorable and impactful gathering for attendees.

To view photos from the event, click [here](#)!

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# Our Speakers



**AVNI AGRAWAL, KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER | SIXSENSE

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**SVETLANA PERETS, WELCOMING REMARKS**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM MANAGEMENT | ASTERA LABS

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**PAROMA SEN, WELCOMING REMARKS**

VP OF CORPORATE MARKETING | ASTERA LABS

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**LYNDSI PARKER, PANEL MODERATOR**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF CUSTOM SILICON | MARVELL

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**ELEENA ONG, PANELIST**

CVP SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS & APPLICATIONS ENGINEER | LATTICE SEMICONDUCTOR

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**SAYEH SHARIFY, PANELIST**

PRINCIPAL MACHINE LEARNING RESEARCH SCIENTIST | D-MATRIX

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**VASSAVI POTTUMUTTU, PANELIST**

SENIOR DIRECTOR OF SILICON ENGINEERING | ASTERA LABS

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**SHARADA YELURI, PANELIST**

AVP OF ENGINEERING | ASTERA LABS

# Event Recap



What an amazing day filled with great discussions and over 110 attendees from various companies in the semiconductor ecosystem! Many left feeling empowered, motivated, and connected.

- **Breakfast and Networking:** The day began with an opportunity for attendees to check in and network over breakfast.
- **Welcoming Remarks:** The event kicked off with welcoming remarks from President and COO Sanjay Gajendra and Svetlana Perets, Senior Director of Program Management at Astera Labs and Co-Founder of the Women at Astera Labs.
- **Keynote Presentation:** Avni Agrawal, Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer of SixSense, delivered an inspiring keynote on the importance of embracing a beginner's mindset and building trust as a new company in the industry.
- **Panel Discussion:** Following the keynote, a panel discussion titled "Pathways to Success" sparked important conversations about taking risks, choosing what is best for you, and taking advantage of seeing the people around you as mentors.
- **Lunch and Networking:** The day concluded with a wonderfully catered lunch, providing another chance for networking and building connections.

A huge thank you to our speakers for sharing their insights, and to the incredible team at Astera Labs for their hospitality and generosity in hosting this successful event in their beautiful offices.

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## Event Testimonials

“Such an energizing way to kick off 2026—loved the honest discussion around real pathways to success and the blend of technical depth with leadership insight. Grateful to [Astera Labs](#) and [GSA Women's Leadership Initiative](#) for hosting such a thoughtful Lunch & Learn with contributions from [Sanjay Gajendra](#) and other Keynote speakers and panelists. Looking forward to staying connected.”

- **Kanika Radhakrishnan, Evergreen Valley Law Group**

“Great opportunity to meet new and old friends, gain insights and share advice to some of the younger women starting their careers. Thank you GSA WLI team and Astera Labs for hosting!”

- **Felicia Cheng, Renesas**

“A day filled with learning, inspiration and meeting like minded people who broke glass ceilings. Thank you Lam Research for a great opportunity to connect and learn #leadershipgoals”

- **Harshita Jayakar, Lam Research**

“We value industry engagement like this — where deep technical perspectives are shared across the semiconductor ecosystem and future directions are shaped collaboratively. It reflects the kind of high-impact environment we’re continuing to build at d-Matrix. Thank you to the [GSA Women's Leadership Initiative](#) and all the panelists for a strong discussion.”

- **d-Matrix**

“What made this event especially impactful was how honest and practical the panelists were in sharing their own experiences. Rather than presenting a one-size-fits-all formula for success, they emphasized that career growth often looks different for everyone...Overall, the panel was both motivating and grounding. It reinforced that success in engineering is not only about technical ability, but also about communication, growth mindset, and the way we work with others.”

- **Mamta Rana, Cadence**

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