

DR. LACE M.K. PADILLA – SERVICE STATEMENT

My service contributions span professional leadership, institutional governance, diversity and inclusion initiatives, and public engagement. Across these domains, my service is motivated by a commitment to strengthening the visualization community, integrating cognitive science into visualization research and practice, and broadening participation in science and computing. I view service as an integral component of my scholarly role, closely aligned with my research and teaching missions. My major service roles are summarized in Table 1.

Professional Service and Leadership

I am an active leader in the data visualization community, currently serving as a **General Chair of IEEE VIS 2026 in Boston**, the flagship international conference in visualization. In this role, I oversee conference organization, coordinate committees, and help shape strategic priorities for the field. My broader professional service includes membership on the **IEEE VIS Open Practices Committee** (2024–2026), the **Publicity Committee** (2022–2024), multiple Program Committees for IEEE VIS and EuroVis, and prior service as **Diversity and Equity Chair** (2020–2022), where I managed need-based scholarships, childcare grants, and accessibility protocols to reduce structural barriers to conference participation. I am also a founding organizer of the **Psychology in Visualization (PsyVis) Workshop** at IEEE VIS (2020–2023), an application-based workshop that helped formalize and grow the integration of cognitive science within visualization research.

I am also an organizer of the Visualization Summer Camp, a mentoring program for junior faculty in visualization across North America that I have co-organized since 2021. The program is a two-year cohort-based experience designed to foster professional growth through peer support, structured mentoring, and career development. Each year, we convene small cohorts of early-career researchers to focus on key aspects of academic life, including building a sustainable research program, securing external funding, developing effective pedagogy, and balancing professional responsibilities. The program has demonstrated measurable impact: to date, **39% of female participants have received NSF or DOE early-career awards**, underscoring the camp’s role in empowering and advancing the next generation of leaders in the visualization community.

My editorial service includes serving as an **Associate Editor for IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG)** beginning in 2025, the premier journal in the field. I previously served as an **Associate Editor** for the Journal of Visualization and Interaction (JoVI; 2022–2025) and as a **Guest Editor** for a special issue on uncertainty visualization in *Frontiers in Computer Science* (2019–2020). I have also served on more than five NSF review panels and one NIH review panel, contributing to national funding decisions in visualization, HCI, and applied cognitive science.

Service to Campus and Department

At Northeastern University, I have made sustained contributions to departmental and college-level service through faculty governance, student recruitment, and research community leadership. I currently serve on the **tenure-track faculty hiring committee** (2024–2026), contributing to candidate evaluation, interviews, and strategic discussions around departmental growth. I have also supported the **PhD Admissions Committee**, including helping to organize and run the **HCI and Visualization virtual PhD open house in 2025**, which enhanced applicant engagement and recruitment in VIS and HCI research areas. I formally served on the PhD Admissions Committee in 2023/2024.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, when the directors of the Khoury Data Visualization Lab were on sabbatical, **Enrico Bertini and I jointly ran the Khoury Data Visualization Lab**. In this role, we coordinated research activities, managed advising logistics for approximately 20 graduate students, organized group meetings and retreats, and supported admissions-related and community-building events. This work ensured continuity of mentorship, research productivity, and lab operations during a critical transition period. During this year, the major conference in our field (IEEE VIS) was ultimately canceled due to hurricanes. In response, I organized the Northeastern contingent to host the conference’s capstone speaker live on campus, which I streamed to thousands of conference participants worldwide. This effort demonstrated Northeastern’s global presence in data visualization and highlighted our institution’s strong commitment to the community, with the Dean’s support.

Earlier in my career at UC Merced, I served on the **Native Repatriation, Cultural Preservation, and Outreach Committee** (2020–2022), contributing to land acknowledgment initiatives, cultural programming, and partnerships with local tribes. I led the development of **nativematters.ucmerced.edu**, a comprehensive public-facing website documenting the university’s Native American initiatives, which I designed, coded, and maintained in its entirety. I also co-directed the **Toloma 5K**, a large-scale community event requiring extensive logistical coordination, volunteer management, fundraising, and the design of culturally meaningful materials and awards.

Diversity in Service

Advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion has been a sustained focus of my professional service, particularly through leadership roles that create structural support for scholars from historically underrepresented backgrounds. My service emphasizes durable institutional change, national-level engagement, and the reduction of participation barriers in psychological science and visualization research communities.

From 2021–2023, I served on the governing board of the **Spark Society**, an NSF-funded organization dedicated to supporting scholars from underrepresented backgrounds in psychological science. In this role, I contributed to governance and strategic planning efforts aimed at improving equity, mentorship, and scientific rigor within the field. During my tenure, the organization received the **Society for the Improvement of Psychological Science (SIPS) Mission Award** (2021), recognizing its contributions to improving inclusion and practice in psychological science.

My commitment to diversity-focused service extends back to my graduate training and has been consistently recognized through competitive awards and externally funded initiatives. At the University of Utah, I founded and served as **President of the Diversity Graduate School Application Advisory** (2015–2018), raising over \$5,000 to reduce financial barriers associated with graduate applications and GRE preparation for minoritized students. This work was recognized with the department's **Chair's Special Recognition Award**. Earlier, my service and research contributions supporting underrepresented populations were recognized with the **Martin Harris Hiatt Memorial Graduate Fellowship** (\$6,750, 2014) and the **Clayton Award for Excellence in Research with Underrepresented Populations** (\$2,000, 2014). Further, my leadership in broadening participation was supported by the **National Science Foundation** (Award #1810498, *Broadening Participation in SBE: Improving Equity in STEM via Visualization Literacy Cognition*, \$138,000, PI, 2018–2020), reflecting national recognition of my service-oriented efforts to improve equity in STEM.

Outreach and Public Engagement

My service extends beyond academia through public-facing outreach and science communication. I have collaborated with organizations such as the **World Bank** and the **Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre** to apply visualization and behavioral science research to disaster preparedness and risk communication. I also wrote a recurring column for *ACM Interactions* magazine entitled “*Unpacking Uncertainty*,” aimed at improving public understanding of uncertainty in everyday decision-making.

In addition, I regularly engage broader audiences through media and educational platforms, including featured work in *Scientific American*, appearances on the APA podcast, and my YouTube channel **Dr. DataVis**, which provides free, accessible visualization education to a global audience of more than 20,000 subscribers. I was featured on the CBS television program **Mission Unstoppable**, a nationally broadcast series focused on highlighting women scientists, where I discussed pathways into STEM careers to inspire young girls. I was also contracted by **Massolit** to design and present a series of educational videos on data visualization, developed specifically to support K–12 educators in teaching students how to interpret, evaluate, and reason with data visualizations. These materials extend evidence-based visualization concepts to pre-college classrooms and support educators in building students' data literacy skills.

Summary

Overall, my service record reflects sustained leadership and initiative at the disciplinary, institutional, and public levels. Through conference leadership, editorial and funding service, diversity initiatives, and public engagement, I aim to strengthen the visualization community, support the next generation of scholars, and broaden access to high-quality scientific knowledge. Looking ahead, I plan to continue expanding my leadership within IEEE VIS, mentoring early-career researchers through programs such as the Visualization Summer Camp, and contributing to national funding and policy efforts that shape the future of visualization and human-centered computing.

Table 1: Summary of service contributions organized by professional community service, university service, and public outreach.

Professional Community Service	Years
General Chair, IEEE VIS	2026
Associate Editor, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics	2025–ongoing
Open Practices Committee, IEEE VIS	2024–2025
NSF Panel Reviewer	2021–2025
Associate Editor, Journal of Visualization and Interaction	2022–2025
Publicity Committee, IEEE VIS	2022–2024
Program Committee, IEEE VIS	2019, 2020, 2023, 2024
Diversity and Equity Committee, IEEE VIS	2020–2022
Governing Board Member, Spark Society	2021–2023
Co-organizer, Visualization Summer Camp	2021–present
Workshop Co-chair, Visualization Psychology, IEEE VIS	2020
Program Committee, EuroVis	2020
Program Committee, iLRN	2020
Guest Editor, Frontiers in Psychology and Frontiers in Computer Science special topic on uncertainty visualization	2019–2020
Poster Chair, Spatial Cognition Conference	2018
NSF STEM Ambassador	2017–2018
Editorial Service, Peters CRC Press Computer Graphics, Vision and Visualization	2013
University Service	Years
Tenure-track Faculty Hiring Committee, Northeastern University	2024–2026
Co-lead, Khoury Data Visualization Lab, Northeastern University	2024–2025
Ph.D. Admissions Committee, Northeastern University	2023–2024
Native Repatriation, Cultural Preservation, and Outreach Committee, UC Merced	2020–2022
Co-director, Toloma 5K, UC Merced	2020–2022
Founder and President, Diversity Graduate School Application Advisory, University of Utah	2015–2018
Vice President, SACNAS Chapter, University of Utah	2017–2018
Public Outreach	Years
Dr. DataVis YouTube Channel	Ongoing
Collaboration with Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Center	Ongoing
Educational Video Developer and Presenter, Massolit	2025
Guest, APA Podcast	2023
Columnist, <i>ACM Interactions</i> , <i>Unpacking Uncertainty</i>	2022
Featured Scientist, CBS <i>Mission Unstoppable</i>	2021
Disaster Preparedness and Risk Communication Collaboration, World Bank	2018–2019