

INSPIRED Investigators



PI Peggy Doerschuk is a Professor of Computer Science at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, and Director of the INSPIRED Program. She has directed research-based development, mentoring and retention programs for underrepresented students in computer science since 2002. Her current research interests focus on artificial intelligence, robotics, and CS education. She has received research and education grants from NSF, NASA, the Army, the Texas Engineering and Technical Consortium, ExxonMobil and Lamar University. She has received awards for excellence in teaching and research. Dr. Doerschuk received a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and a Ph. D. in Computer Science from Tulane University. She was an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Alabama in Huntsville for three years before joining Lamar University in 1993. Her past honors include serving as a Research Intern at Honeywell's AI Research Office, a Summer Faculty Researcher for the Army, and President of Lamar University's Faculty Senate.



Co-PI Jiangjiang (Jane) Liu is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Lamar University and Co-Director of the INSPIRED Program. She has helped direct research-based development, mentoring and retention programs for underrepresented students in computer science since 2004. Dr. Liu has co-organized summer academies for girls in middle and high schools and participated in several other outreach programs for middle and high school students and entering college students. Her research interests are in computer architecture with an emphasis on: high-performance, low-power, and cost-effective memory system design for Chip Multiprocessing (CMP), Embedded Systems, and SoC. Dr. Liu received the B.Eng. degree in Computer Engineering from the Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, Beijing, P.R. China, in 1997 and the M.S. and then the Ph.D. degree in Computer Science and Engineering, from the University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, in 2004.



Co-PI Judith Mann is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Lamar University and Director of INSPIRED assessment. She has served as the program evaluator for the Ronald McNair Post-Baccalaureate Program for eight years, and she performed the program evaluation for the Texas Higher Education Star Award winning Monitored Probation Program. Her research interests are in program evaluation, student retention and assessment tool development. She has led undergraduate and graduate students in research focusing in these areas for the past ten years. During the past four years she has led two student retention programs focused on first generation college students and underrepresented populations. She has been part of numerous successful grant writing teams which have brought scholarship moneys and retention programs to Lamar University. Dr. Mann received a B.A. in Psychology from North East Louisiana University. She has a M.S. in Educational Psychology and Ph.D. in School Psychology from Texas A&M University.