**Albert Nerken School of Engineering**

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Town Hall**

**December 17, 2020 5pm-6pm EDT**

Questions for Lynn Conway

1. How close did you come to identifying a specific moment when you were erased, or was it more diffuse process? **LC ANSWERED LIVE**
2. In the Isaacson biography of Leonardo da Vinci, the author makes the argument early in the book that many of the innovations and radical ideas that da Vinci had were due to his “perfect brew” of being different – homosexual, illegitimate, and left-handed! I wonder if you would agree with this statement, and what your thoughts are on how we can encourage innovation… rather than thinking of “people like us” and “people not like us” we just get ideas from people, period? **LC ANSWERED LIVE**
3. So many of us are othered and for our students, the classroom and labs can be place of profound acceptance – professionally and personally or it can be a place where they start to feel erased and disconnected. Do you have any suggestions on how we can help make their classrooms spaces for social change and belonging for students? **LC ANSWERED LIVE**
4. The landscape for trans / non-binary people (and all marginalized people) has changed a lot since you came out; as you look at the state of the field today, what are your hopes for inclusion and how do you see us evolving?
5. Did you have any people pushback against your story? (trying to diminish it, post 2020).
6. What things or people contributed to you getting your story out in a positive way? (I’m interested in how people get quieted or encouraged).
7. If, at the time you were developing the VLSI technology, you knew what you know now, what (if anything) would you have done differently?

Other comments:

Student Chris Mignano: Not a question, but thank you so much this has been incredible and inspiring!

Chief Talent Officer Natalie Brooks: This is so inspiring for our students and the rest of our Cooper Community. Never allow yourself to be pushed aside. Always believe in who you are and find champions who will provide encouragement and opportunities and recognize your contributions. Leave those who want to marginalize you behind.

Student Edward Zlotskiy: Thank you so much for the presentation! I appreciate your time spent talking to the Cooper community and teaching us your perspective and story.

President Laura Sparks: You have such grace and generosity in your perspective. Thank you for sharing that with us and for sharing your story and accomplishments and perspectives on how to help people rethink long-held perspectives and approaches.