



The PhD Project Announces 2021 Hall of Fame Inductees

Dr. Aberdeen Leila Borders, Kennesaw State University; Dr. Margarita Maria Lenk, Colorado State University; and Dr. Adriane B. Randolph Kennesaw State University honored

MONTVALE, NJ (September 21, 2021) – The [PhD Project](#) – a non-profit that is helping create a stronger, more diverse workforce – has announced its 2021 inductees into The PhD Project Hall of Fame. **Aberdeen Leila Borders, PhD** of Kennesaw State University; **Margarita Maria Lenk, PhD** of Colorado State University; and **Adriane B. Randolph, PhD** of Kennesaw State University were awarded the honor for their outstanding work as mentors and educators to the next generation of business professionals and as diversity and inclusion trailblazers in their campus communities.

The PhD Project established the Hall of Fame in 2011 to acknowledge a select few who have inspired many. Hall of Fame inductees have shown an unwavering commitment to The PhD Project's mission to create a stronger, more diverse workforce, and have exhibited thoughtful leadership that has significantly impacted The Project's network of business doctoral students and faculty.

"We are proud to welcome Aberdeen, Margarita and Adriane to The PhD Project Hall of Fame – their work on their campuses and in their communities is truly inspiring," said Blane Ruschak, president of The PhD Project and the KPMG Foundation – the founding partner and administrator of The Project. "They have worked very hard to create diversity in academia and show their students that they can succeed in the business world."

Dr. Aberdeen Leila Borders is professor emerita of marketing and professional sales at Kennesaw State University's Michael J. Coles College of Business. She holds a bachelor's degree in accounting, and an MBA and PhD in marketing from Georgia State University. Dr. Borders was previously the assistant chair of the department of marketing and professional sales at Kennesaw; she has also served as an associate professor at the University of New Orleans. Since joining The PhD Project 25 years ago, Dr. Borders has tirelessly committed herself to planning, presenting, recruiting, mentoring and serving as a representative for The PhD Project in numerous capacities. She was elected the first president of The PhD Project Marketing Doctoral Student Association in 1997 and the honored guest for the annual Minority Doctoral Student Association Conference in 2017.

Dr. Margarita Maria Lenk has served the accounting profession for more than 40 years as a professional, consultant, instructor, mentor, coach, presenter and researcher. Dr. Lenk joined Colorado State University in 1990, where she has served for the past 31 years. Her multidisciplinary background in accounting, economics, information systems, psychology, sustainability and university-community partnerships have informed her development of innovative courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels – oftentimes having her students perform research and service to solve real community needs. Dr. Lenk has served and led many diversity and education committees at the national level in the American Accounting Association, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Colorado Society of Certified Public Accountants, National Academy Foundation, and the Institute of Management Accountants. With The PhD Project, she served on the Accounting Doctoral Students Association planning committee and as a PhD Project faculty advisor and mentor since its inception.

Dr. Adriane B. Randolph is a tenured professor of information systems at Kennesaw State University in the Michael J. Coles College of Business. She is also the founder and executive director of the BrainLab, an innovative, research-based enterprise that combines cognitive neuroscience tools with cutting-edge applications in information systems. In addition to serving as the inaugural discipline lead for the information systems track of the doctoral program in business administration, she is also the chair of the university intellectual property committee and department honors liaison. Dr. Randolph actively volunteers with The PhD Project as a faculty advisor and Circle of Compadres member.

“All of our inductees have gone above and beyond in their work for their respective universities, and for The Project,” Ruschak said. “We’re so excited to recognize their tremendous efforts and show the world how visionary our members are.”

About The PhD Project

Founded in 1994, [The PhD Project](http://www.phdproject.org) works to increase diversity in the business world. Through its unique model, the nonprofit organization’s Black/African American, Latinx/Hispanic American and Native American members pursue business PhDs with the intent to become university faculty, teaching and guiding students who aspire to a career in business. Since its launch, The Project has been responsible for quintupling the number of underrepresented professors, administrators and academic leaders at an extensive list of academic programs, helping more than 1,600 former business professionals and undergraduate students attain their doctoral degree. The PhD Project also includes close to 300 students currently enrolled in a business PhD program.

For more information on The PhD Project, webinars and sponsors visit www.phdproject.org and follow the program on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).