

UMass Amherst ~ 3M

Diversity in STEM Lecture Series

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

11:30 AM: Technical Seminar (LGRT 201)

3:00 PM: Coffee Hour for Students (Conte A624)

Belma Erdogan-Haug, PhD, MBA



Head of Global AE & Digital Transformation
Industrials Business Unit
Henkel Corporation

Breaking Through: My Path from STEM Student to Corporate Leader

Choosing a career in STEM is both exciting and, at times, overwhelming - especially if you are coming from underrepresented or first-generation backgrounds. As a woman leading global technical teams, I know firsthand the challenges and opportunities that come with forging your own path in this field. At the same time, I have witnessed the power of diverse perspectives in driving innovation, and I understand how critical it is to broaden the conversation around what success in STEM truly looks like.

This talk is designed to look beyond the traditional academic route and spotlight the many ways individuals can forge impactful careers in STEM—particularly within industry. By sharing real-world journeys, including those that are nonlinear or unconventional, we'll explore how people have carved out meaningful roles, overcome barriers, and redefined success on their own terms.

With a special emphasis on industry pathways, I will offer honest insights into how mentorship, networks, and lived experiences have shaped my professional growth. Attendees will gain practical guidance on transitioning from academia to the corporate world and learn how identity can be a source of strength, not a barrier.

Whether you're exploring your next step after graduation or simply seeking inspiration, this session is designed to offer practical advice, encouragement, and a reminder that your unique background is a strength—not a limitation. You belong in STEM, and you have the power to thrive in the corporate world.

Sponsored by: 3M, Depts. of Chemical Engineering and Polymer Science & Engineering

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Belma Erdogan-Haug is a strategic business leader and accomplished scientist with a proven track record of driving innovation and growth at the intersection of technology and global markets. With over 18 years of experience at 3M and Henkel, she has led cross-functional, international teams in the development and commercialization of advanced materials and technologies across industries including consumer electronics, data and telecom, industrial, solar energy, aerospace, and medical.

Belma holds a PhD in Chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology and an MBA from the MIT Sloan School of Management. Following her postdoctoral research at UMass Amherst, she has built a career distinguished by technical depth, business acumen, and a collaborative leadership style. She is the inventor of more than 20 patents and the author of 13 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

A passionate advocate for equity in STEM, Belma actively mentors and coaches' women and underrepresented minority students in science and engineering as well as in career development. She serves on the Advisory Board for the Georgia Tech College of Sciences and currently chairs the AIChE Management Division Awards Committee.

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