CSW COMMITTEE ON MINORITY AFFAIRS PRESENTS

CAREER CONVERSATIONS

NAVIGATING STEM AS A MINORITY PROFESSIONAL



Wilton Virgo, PhD

RHODIUM INC.



Darshini Trivedi, PhD

AMGEN



Isaac Zawalo

ARLINGTON CAREER CENTER



Dwayne Henry

MONTGOMERY COLLEGE



Varnika Roy, PhD

GSK

Thursday, November 5

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

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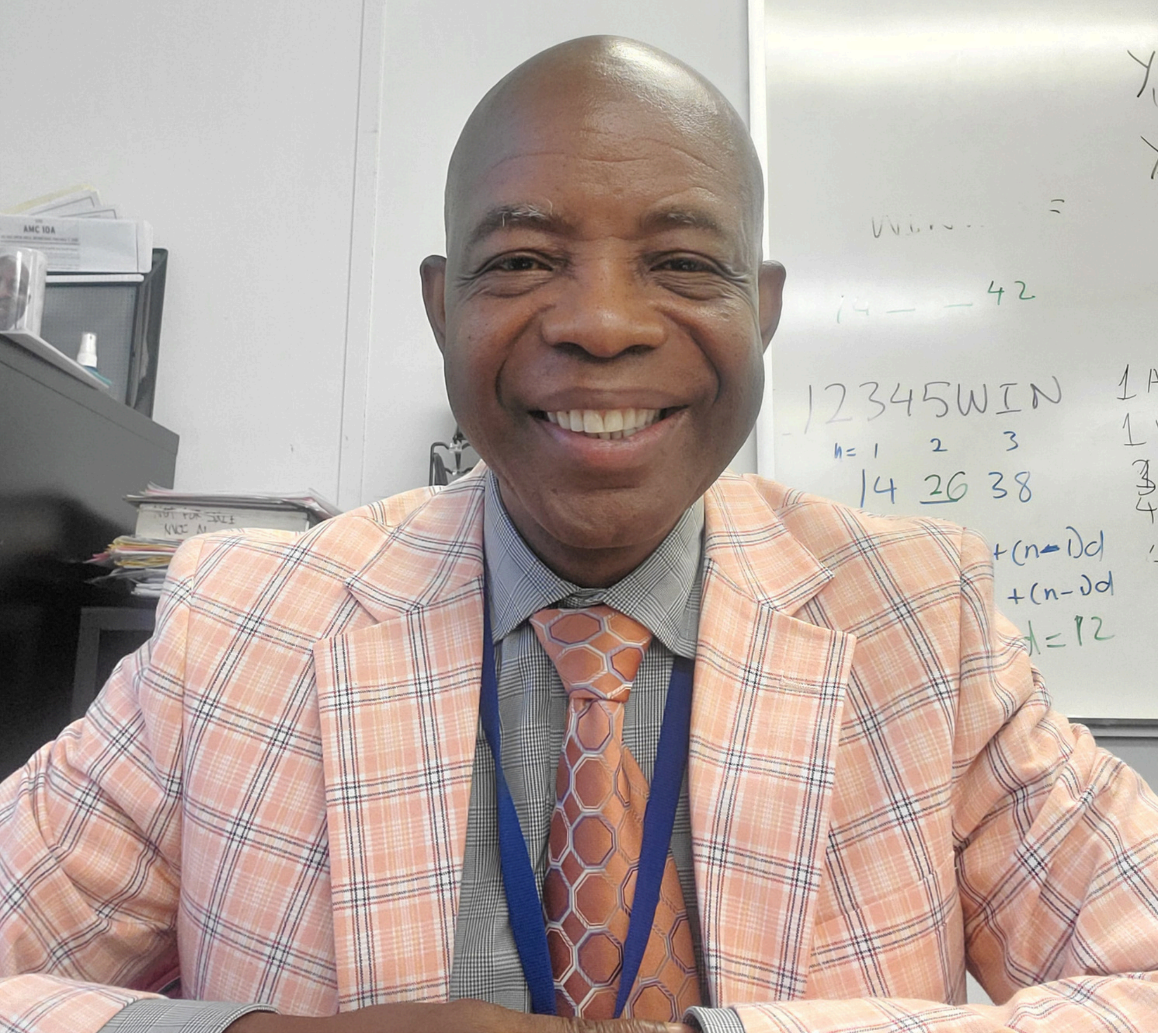
WILTON L. VIRGO, PHD

Dr. Wilton L. Virgo is a **quantum physical chemist and President of Rhodium Inc.** with decades of experience in laser spectroscopy and molecular theory. His career has included research and academic positions at institutions such as Princeton University, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Arizona State University, MIT, Wellesley College, and Harvard University. He is also the author of Quantum Mechanics in Everyday Life, a book that makes complex scientific concepts accessible to audiences without a technical background. Having navigated careers across academia, government, and industry, Dr. Virgo brings a unique perspective on professional growth, career exploration, and communicating science to diverse audiences.



DARSHINI TRIVEDI, PHD

Dr. Darshini Trivedi is a **global regulatory affairs and drug development strategy leader at Amgen** with 13 years of experience in the biopharmaceutical industry. After earning her PhD in Pharmacology, she completed postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Pennsylvania and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). She transitioned from academic research into industry, holding positions in medical writing and medical affairs before advancing into global regulatory strategy at AstraZeneca. At Amgen, she leads cross-functional teams and develops regulatory strategies that support drug development, approval, and lifecycle management. Her career journey offers valuable insight into navigating professional transitions, leadership, and mentorship in STEM.



ISAAC ZAWALO

Professor Isaac Saye-Lakpoh Zawolo is a **mathematics educator, educational administrator, and STEM equity advocate** with more than 30 years of experience in education across the United States and West Africa. He has taught advanced mathematics at Arlington Public Schools for over two decades and served as an Adjunct Professor at Northern Virginia Community College for more than 15 years. From 2021 to 2024, he served as Superintendent of the Monrovia Consolidated School System in Liberia, leading initiatives to strengthen digital literacy and educational access. His work emphasizes mentorship, expanding STEM opportunities for underrepresented students, and building educational partnerships across communities. He was named Teacher of the Year at Arlington Career Center in 2009.



DWAYNE HENRY

Dwayne Henry has dedicated more than 30 years to Montgomery College, where he currently serves as **Instructional Lab Manager for Natural Sciences & Engineering** at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring campus. Throughout his career, he has played a key role in modernizing laboratory facilities, improving safety procedures, and supporting biology, chemistry, and research laboratory operations. He established the campus's first laboratory safety committee and collaborates with organizations to provide laboratory skills training for individuals with disabilities. An active leader in the American Chemical Society (ACS), he serves as the 2026 Chair-Elect of the Division of Chemical Health and Safety and Chair of the Two-Year College Lab Safety Community of Practice, among other leadership roles.



VARNIKA ROY, PHD

Dr. Varnika Roy is **Vice President and Global Head of Platform Sciences at GSK**, where she leads efforts to strengthen clinical development through predictive modeling, bioanalytics, and scientific innovation. Throughout her career, she has held several leadership positions at GSK, overseeing analytical sciences, vaccine development, and cross-functional teams supporting clinical programs. Before joining GSK, she worked as a Senior Scientist at MedImmune (AstraZeneca). She earned her PhD in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of Maryland, College Park. Beyond her industry leadership, Dr. Roy is actively involved in the American Chemical Society (ACS), serving as Chair of the Meetings & Expositions Committee and a Councilor for the Biochemical Technology Division. She was named an ACS Fellow in 2024.