

Emerging Leader Award

Stefanie Chiras, Ph.D.

IBM

Stefanie Chiras, Ph.D., is a technical expert in the development of silicon technology, memory subsystems, and micro-processors at IBM. She has had a distinguished career in hardware and systems architecture and is acknowledged by her peers as an authority in many related disciplines. She uses her technical expertise and leadership experience to link silicon technology and system development with sales and marketing to deliver products for IBM.

She is currently responsible for ensuring that IBM's next generation System z mainframe processors and proprietary ASICs (application-specific integrated circuits) are testable and characterized for optimum performance and reliability. Dr. Chiras leads the effort to ensure soft error resiliency of all IBM's server platforms and is accountable for cost, quality, and schedule decisions for many of IBM's most important hardware products.

Dr. Chiras joined the research staff of IBM Research in 2001 and has served the company in many capacities, including researcher, server developer, and business developer. She provided technical operations and business strategy direction to IBM's Cell and Blue Gene programs. She orchestrated a corporation-wide, matrixed organization to bring these technologies to new markets. She created the first IBM-wide, financial view of the Cell program, overseeing systems and chip technical development, marketing, sales, ecosystem development, and technical support.

After receiving a B.S. in mechanical engineering from Harvard University, Dr. Chiras went to the University of California, Santa Barbara to



CITATION:

For demonstrated leadership and achievements in materials science research and in product research, design, and engineering, and for encouraging young girls to study engineering.

earn a M.S. and Ph.D. in materials science. She then joined the Princeton Materials Institute of Princeton University as a post-doctoral researcher.

Always eager to share her love of science and encourage girls to enter the engineering profession, while in graduate school, Dr. Chiras volunteered in an elementary school and taught materials science to a physics class at a local high school, where she also helped start an engineering club.

She currently serves as a formal technical and career mentor to professional IBM women, college students, and middle school girls. She presented engineering experiments at IBM's ThinkPlace exhibit at Epcot® theme park for six years and takes part in IBM's Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering camp for middle school girls. She is a member of the technology and curriculum committees at Worcester Academy, her alma mater.

Dr. Chiras is a member of the Society of Women Engineers and is on the IBM team to build a stronger relationship between SWE and IBM. She is active in IBM's education outreach programs and has co-coordinated the Family Science Saturdays

program for third through fifth graders.

Married and the proud mother of a 2-year-old daughter, Annabella, outside of work Dr. Chiras' days are filled with blowing bubbles, going to the zoo, and drawing with sidewalk chalk. She also enjoys applying her engineering skills and tools to making home improvements on their 1800s home.