



NSF Engines:
**Central Florida
Semiconductor
Innovation Engine**

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NSF Engines: Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine Announces New Engine Chief Executive Officer

National Science Foundation confirms Tawny Olore to lead Engines technology hub in Osceola County

Kissimmee, Fla., July 8, 2024 – The [U.S. National Science Foundation \(NSF\) Engines: Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine](#) (the Engine) led by [BRIDG](#)—a not-for-profit, public-private partnership specializing in advanced system integration and packaging and focused on inclusive regional economic development—has named Tawny Olore, P.E., a veteran of development and launching new projects in Central Florida, as its new NSF Engine CEO. Ms. Olore will lead the inaugural innovative and collaborative technology-driven Engine focused on semiconductor technology located at Osceola County’s 500-acre technology campus known as NeoCity.

In January, Central Florida was selected as one of [ten NSF Regional Innovation Engines](#) to catalyze groundbreaking technologies resulting in inclusive regional innovation ecosystems across the nation. The Engine brings together key partners to grow and diversify the local economy and drive investment into the region. As the Engine’s new Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Olore, who has nearly three decades of experience implementing projects such as SunRail and Osceola County’s historic road building program, among other accomplishments, will spearhead efforts to implement the Engine program in Central Florida. Together, the BRIDG team and its partners will drive all aspects of the Engine growth including construction, technical development, government affairs, and governance to enable the ecosystem to flourish.

“We are excited to welcome Tawny to her new role leading the NSF Engines: Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine,” said Jay Galbraith, president of BRIDG, the lead organization for the Engine award. “Tawny has led several of the most consequential transportation initiatives throughout the entire Central Florida region over the last 20 years, and we are grateful for the experience and expertise she brings to the team. We look forward to having her lead the Central Florida Engine, working alongside BRIDG and our partners in serving Osceola County as the semiconductor manufacturing and advanced packing hub for America.”

Most recently, Ms. Olore served as Osceola County’s Deputy County Manager and was responsible for the oversight and management of the Transportation and Transit, Public Works, Real Estate, and Information Technology departments. Her role included the oversight and management of all transportation projects in Osceola County, from inception, through design and construction, to completion.

“Tawny is a well-respected leader who has played a significant role in growing the landscape for our region and state,” stated Osceola County Manager Don Fisher. “As Osceola County delivers on the bipartisan

priorities outlined in the [CHIPS and Science Act of 2022](#) with our coalition partners, we are excited to have her lead the Central Florida Semiconductors Innovation Engine at NeoCity. With her leadership, we amplify the significance of our region's impact to a critical industry cluster for our nation."

Prior to her role with Osceola County, Ms. Olore served as Program Manager for the Florida Department of Transportation's Rail Transit program in District Five (serving the counties of Brevard, Flagler, Lake, Marion, Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Sumter, and Volusia). She specifically managed all aspects of SunRail, which is Central Florida's Commuter Rail system, shepherding the project through the complex state, local, and federal funding process, coordinating required local and state government approvals, and managing all aspects of the design, construction, and implementation of the project from inception to full operation.

"It is a pleasure to welcome Tawny to BRIDG and to her new role leading the NSF Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine," said Dr. John Allgair, BRIDG CTO and NSF Engine CTO/Co-PI. "I look forward to working with Tawny in the years to come. Her skills, respect, and abilities with large programs and contract management will allow for effective execution of our commitment to NSF and provide essential bandwidth to grow our Engine."

"I am honored to serve in the role of CEO to lead the collaborative efforts of many partners to drive our ecosystem and the communities we serve forward as a vital hub for semiconductor manufacturing research and technological innovation," stated Ms. Olore. "I look forward to the transformational impacts the NSF Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engines program will make as we grow the semiconductor ecosystem in Florida and contribute to our nation's security and high-tech economy."

The Engine brings together major Central Florida research institutions, local government, nonprofits, and economic and workforce development partners to support the reshoring of the semiconductor advanced packaging industry. In addition to BRIDG, the Engine partners include CareerSource Central Florida, Florida High Tech Corridor, imec, the Orlando Economic Partnership, Osceola County, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, and Valencia College.

With a potential NSF investment of nearly \$1.6 billion over the next decade, the NSF Engines represent one of the single largest investments in place-based research and economic development in the nation's history — uniquely placing science and technology leadership as the central driver for regional economic competitiveness and job creation. NSF Engines: Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine will initially receive up to \$15 million for the next two years. NSF's initial \$150 million investment into these 10 regions is being matched nearly two to one by commitments from state and local governments, other federal agencies, philanthropy, and private industry. [See a map of the inaugural NSF Engines.](#)

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About NSF Engines

Launched by the NSF Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships in May 2022, the NSF Engines program uniquely harnesses the nation's science and technology research, development enterprise and regional-level resources. For more information, visit the [NSF Engines program website](#).

NSF Engines: Central Florida Semiconductor Innovation Engine

Located in Osceola County, Florida, NeoCity serves as the site of one of the U.S. National Science Foundation's (NSF) inaugural Regional Innovation Engines. Led by BRIDG—a not-for-profit, public-private partnership specializing in advanced system integration and packaging and focused on inclusive regional economic development—the Engine brings together major Central Florida research institutions, local government, nonprofits, and economic and workforce development partners to support the reshoring of the semiconductor advanced packaging industry. In addition to BRIDG, the Engine partners include CareerSource Central Florida, Florida High Tech Corridor, imec, the Orlando Economic Partnership, Osceola County, University of Central Florida, University of Florida, and Valencia College. NSF-2315320; www.GoBRIDG.com/NSFengine

About BRIDG

BRIDG is a not-for-profit, public-private partnership serving Osceola County, Florida in creating the semiconductor advanced packaging and workforce hub for America. As an ITAR-certified and DMEA trust-ready supplier, BRIDG offers R&D expertise in digital, RF, and photonics interposer technology development coupled with advanced packaging capabilities and a 200mm microelectronics fabrication facility geared toward system miniaturization, device integration, hardware security, and product

manufacturing to produce high quality, high reliability products key to multiple market segments. BRIDG provides the physical infrastructure and collaborative process to connect challenges and opportunities with solutions, unlocking the potential of microelectronics systems technologies to positively impact customers, partners, and society. By “BRIDGing the innovation development gap” through partnerships, knowledge exchange, product manufacturing, and responsible innovation key to national security and domestic self-sufficiency, BRIDG is a catalyst for driving the microelectronics systems industry forward. Located at NeoCity, BRIDG is centrally located 20 minutes from Orlando International Airport and within a mile of Florida’s Turnpike. www.GoBRIDG.com

About NeoCity

Following the impacts of the Great Recession, Osceola County decided more than a decade ago to make a long-term investment to create a 500-acre technology district, known as NeoCity, to diversify its economy. Since then, Osceola County and their regional partners have invested over \$273 million to make NeoCity the hub to Central Florida’s burgeoning semiconductor industry. NeoCity’s anchor building, the Center for Neovation, (total of 109,000 sq. ft) consisting of a 36,000 square ft. cleanroom, is home to SkyWater Technology, imec USA, BRIDG, TEL, Plug and Play Semiconductors, and SUSS MicroTec. The Osceola County School District’s NeoCity Academy, located next to the Center for Neovation, works with SkyWater, BRIDG, and imec to provide internships for the high school students to work in the industry. www.NeoCityFL.com

About Osceola County

As the third fastest growing county in the nation, Osceola County has been at the forefront of efforts to diversify its historic agricultural and tourism-dependent economy. The County is a diverse community of lifelong residents and recent transplants, third-generation immigrants and new arrivals. The County, led by the elected five-member Board of County Commissioners, continues to drive forward with NeoCity, a 500-acre high-tech campus of emerging innovation in the heart of Osceola County. NeoCity’s master plan is designed to create a smart city that will bring high technology jobs and diversify the County’s economy and positions the County to be first to what’s next. Find out more at www.osceola.org

About CareerSource Central Florida

CareerSource Central Florida (CSCF) is Florida’s second largest regional workforce board that is state and federally funded with an annual operating budget of approximately \$45 million. CSCF provides comprehensive services to connect career seekers and local businesses at no cost. Services include screening and hiring talent; employee training and education; paid internships and no cost skills training and education programs. In fiscal year 2021-2022, CSCF has served more than 39,500 career seekers and 3,500 businesses. The organization has placed more than 5,600 individuals in jobs and helped advance skills for more than 2,500 career seekers across Orange, Osceola, Seminole, Lake and Sumter Counties. For more information, visit www.CareerSourceCentralFlorida.com.

About the Florida High Tech Corridor

An economic development initiative of three research universities—the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida, and the University of Florida—the Florida High Tech Corridor converges and catalyzes the capacity of high tech, innovative, and bright minds across a 23-county region to generate a global ripple effect that advances the lives of people in the communities it serves. Powered by an ethos of collaboration, The Corridor aligns opportunities and resources in academia, industry, and economic development to unleash the region’s exponential. floridahightech.com

About imec

Imec is a world-leading research and innovation center in nanoelectronics and digital technologies. Imec leverages its state-of-the-art R&D infrastructure and its team of more than 5,500 employees and top researchers for R&D in advanced semiconductor and system scaling, silicon photonics, artificial intelligence, beyond 5G communications and sensing technologies, and in application domains such as health and life sciences, mobility, industry 4.0, agrofood, smart cities, sustainable energy, education, and others. Imec unites world-industry leaders across the semiconductor value chain, international tech, pharma, medical and ICT companies, start-ups, and academia and knowledge centers. Imec is headquartered in Leuven (Belgium), and has research sites across Belgium, the Netherlands, and the USA, and representation in three continents. In 2022, imec’s revenue (P&L) totaled 846 million euro. www.imec-int.com/en/usa

About Orlando Economic Partnership

Winner of the National Chamber of the Year award, the Orlando Economic Partnership (OEP) is an economic and community development organization that is seizing the moment to advance Broad-based Prosperity® and create a more prosperous economy for all. Through the power of partnerships, we grow the economy, attract growing companies, boost job creation, drive investment, improve competitiveness and fuel regional leadership. Learn why opportunity in Orlando is *Unbelievably Real™* at InvestOrlando.org.

About University of Central Florida School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training (SMST)

The University of Central Florida School of Modeling, Simulation, and Training (SMST) is renowned for its prestigious graduate program and innovative research. It operates leading, internationally recognized research facilities dedicated to advancing modeling and simulation (M&S) and providing learning opportunities for students. The school has been at the forefront of M&S research for over 40 years, and, in 2018, established one of the first M.S. and Ph.D. programs in M&S. Through its research institute, SMST is exploring the most advanced M&S research concepts in the world for government and commercial applications: digital engineering; computer modeling; virtual, augmented, and mixed reality; behavioral cyber security; intelligent tutoring; human factors; cognition; artificial intelligence; and digital twin. www.ucf.edu/modeling-simulation

About University of Florida ECE

The Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE) Department at the University of Florida has a long and storied history. Since 1909, we have been engineering impact and innovation while creating the best workforce in electrical and computer engineering for the state of Florida and for the nation. Our research, discoveries, and the resulting technologies continue to touch lives everywhere enhancing the economic and social well-being of all Floridians and citizens of the world in innumerable and impactful ways. Since our beginnings, we have grown into one of the largest and most successful departments in the Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering (HWCOE). www.ece.ufl.edu

About Valencia College

Serving nearly 70,000 students at 10 campuses and training centers across Central Florida, Valencia College is recognized as one of the top community colleges in the nation. The college offers a variety of associate and bachelor's degrees and short-term, job training programs, with industry leading rates of graduation, transfer and job placement, as recognized by the Aspen Institute, Achieving the Dream and other national organizations. www.valenciacollege.edu