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MAY 2023

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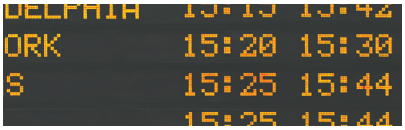

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BDPA Launches 45th Annual BDPACON in 2023

BDPACON23 Returns to Atlanta

ATLANTA — BDPA looks forward to welcoming you and your organization to Atlanta, GA for its 45th Annual BDPA Technology Conference and Career Expo. These conferences are open to both students and professionals in STEMM and all digital technology fields. The Association also invites those in emerging professions and industries that increasingly rely on data technology to enhance their work to join the annual convening, which is highly immersive and transformative

If you are a BDPA Member, contact the association at **helpdesk@bdpa.org** to receive special discount code(s) for BDPA Members.

To participate, speakers, presenters, panelists, BDPA Members, Student Members, and exhibitors visit: **conference.bdpa.org** to pre-register.

The conference will be held August 17th – 19th, 2023 at the Westin Peachtree Plaza in Atlanta, GA. Register today. Join BDPA this year during the 45th Annual BDPA Technology National Conference, where the theme is ***Future Now!*** **bt**

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Empowering the Next Generation of Technology Leaders in the U.S. Foreign Service

The Foreign Affairs Information Technology (FAIT) Fellowship is designed for highly talented individuals who want to pursue an IT-related bachelor's or master's degree and a career as a Foreign Service Information Management Specialist (IMS), supporting diplomacy through technology around the world.

As one of several high-profile U.S. Department of State diversity recruitment programs, the FAIT Fellowship focuses on attracting and growing top technology talent that reflects the diversity of the United States. Women, members of minority groups underrepresented in the Foreign Service, and those with financial need, are encouraged to apply.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS IT Fellowship

As a FAIT Fellow, you will receive:

- **Up to $43,500 annually** (for two years) in academic funding for tuition, room and board, books, mandatory fees and some travel expenses.
- **Two summer internships** (with up to $11,000 in stipend support): one at a domestic office of the Department of State in Washington, D.C. and one overseas at a U. S. embassy or consulate.
- **Orientation** to the Foreign Affairs IT Fellowship program, the Foreign Service career path and to the Department of State.
- **Professional development**, including a 10-week series during the first summer internship in D.C.
- **Mentoring** from a Foreign Service IMS throughout the duration of the fellowship.
- **An appointment** as a Foreign Service IMS upon successful completion of the program and Foreign Service entry requirements. Fellows agree to a minimum five-year commitment upon entry into the Foreign Service.

To be eligible to apply, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be enrolled full-time in an IT-related bachelor's degree program **OR** seeking admission to an IT-related master's degree program at a U.S.-based accredited institution.
- Be on a timeline to graduate with your bachelor's or master's degree in spring 2025 while enrolled full-time for spring and fall semesters.
- Hold a minimum 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale at the time of the application, and maintain this GPA throughout the program.

To learn more and apply, visit **FAITFellowship.org**

As a FAIT Fellow, you must:

- Attend the orientation in Washington, D.C., which takes place in June after selection.
- Obtain and maintain medical and security clearances and suitability requirements.
- Maintain your status as a full-time student (fall and spring semesters) in your approved degree program.
- Maintain a minimum 3.2 GPA and stay on the two-year timeline to graduate with your degree.
- Fulfill the summer internship obligations during your first year and second year as a FAIT Fellow.
- Agree to a minimum five-year commitment with the Foreign Service upon successful completion of the program and Foreign Service requirements.
- Be prepared to enter the Foreign Service after you complete the two-year fellowship.

As a Foreign Service IMS, you will:

- Safeguard communications and promote transparent, interconnected diplomacy throughout more than 270 U.S. embassies, consulates and missions abroad.
- Have the unique opportunity to engage in diplomacy and make a positive impact worldwide – all while developing yourself personally and professionally.
- Experience daily the challenge and excitement of a career at the intersection of information technology and foreign affairs.

Are You Ready to Start Your Journey?

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS IT Fellowship

Cover Story:

BDPA Alumnae are powering tomorrow's engineers

Dr. Jessye Talley to keynote 2023's BDPACON East

(Above) Dr. Jessye Bemley Talley was a JEF and BDPA Student Member, presenter, and an I.T. Showcase contestant from North Carolina A&T University during National BDPA's 2008 Annual Technology Conference and Career Expo (BDPACON 08) in Atlanta, Georgia.

— BDPA photo above © 2008; inset courtesy photo from Dr. Talley

BALTIMORE, MD (BDPA Baltimore) — Dr. Jessye Talley is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Dr. Talley attended North Carolina A&T University where she received a Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering (2008), a Master's degree (2011) and a PhD (2016) in Industrial and Systems Engineering.

Her PhD focused on Operations Research and Supply Chain Management. Dr. Talley's academic specialty and interest focuses on problems that identify vulnerabilities and disruptions that occur within supply chains to develop intervention or mitigation strategies that optimize the total system.

She uses the following methods for her research:

- Stochastic and deterministic modeling
- Simulation
- Stochastic programming
- Markov chains
- Differential equations
- Linear programming
- Queueing theory

Dr. Talley also works with undergraduate and graduate students at Morgan State University's Risk Optimization Management and Evaluation (R.O.M.E) Lab. Meet her next month during ***BDPACON East 2023***. bt

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NASA Selects Blue Origin As Second Artemis Lunar Lander Provider

HUNTSVILLE, AL—To develop a human landing system for the agency's Artemis V (Five) mission to the Moon, NASA has selected Blue Origin of Kent, Washington.

Through Artemis, NASA will explore more of the Moon than ever before, uncovering more scientific discoveries, and preparing for future astronaut missions to Mars.

Blue Origin will design, develop, test, and verify its Blue Moon lander to meet NASA's human landing system requirements for recurring astronaut expeditions to the lunar surface, including docking with Gateway, a space station where crew transfer in lunar orbit.

In addition to design and development work, the contract includes one uncrewed demonstration mission to the lunar surface before a crewed demo on the Artemis V mission in 2029. The total award value of the firm-fixed price contract is $3.4 billion.

For the Artemis V mission, NASA's SLS (Space Launch System) rocket will launch four astronauts to lunar orbit aboard the Orion spacecraft. Once Orion docks with Gateway, two astronauts will transfer to Blue Origin's human landing system for about a weeklong trip to the Moon's South Pole region where they will conduct science and exploration activities.

Artemis V is at the intersection of demonstrating NASA's initial lunar exploration capabilities and establishing the foundational systems to support recurring complex missions in lunar orbit and on the surface as part of the agency's Moon to Mars exploration approach.

By supporting industry's development of innovative human landing system concepts and designs, NASA will help increase access to space for the benefit of all. **bt**

— Source and *photo: NASA*

BDPA's Renowned SITES Programs and Competition Series Enters its 37th Season

NEW YORK—BDPA announces seasonal kick-offs for I.T. showcases, coding, and mobile app development. The association's 2023 SITES competitions are open and currently available for new and aspiring research analysts, social scientists, tech writers, systems engineers, and junior developers (JrDevs). SITES coordinators' names and emails from participating BDPA Chapters were provided to National BDPA in January 2023.

BDPA's SITES Program

Launched in 1986 by Dr. Jesse Bemley, the association's ***Student Information Technology Education and Scholarship*** (SITES) program falls under the association's STEM+ pillar. This program was created to expose our youth to the concepts of computers and give them the expertise to develop web, internet-of-things (IoT), edge computing, and mobile applications.

BDPA's renowned National High School Computer Competition (HSCC) program which is a hands-on software development program for high school students, has introduced tens of thousands of high school students to coding and application development while presenting opportunities for students to obtain technical college scholarships due to corporate leadership commitments of mission partners and local sponsors. Because of BDPA's focus on students and professional members alike, BDPA continues to support and lead the upward success of its members "from the classroom to the boardroom". **bt**

Source and photos: BDPA

First-ever ACLU congressional testimony on artificial intelligence highlights secret algorithms in government

The harms of artificial intelligence and government decision-making

WASHINGTON— Ritchie Eppink, an attorney Of Counsel with the ACLU of Idaho, will testify tomorrow before the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs about the harms of automated systems and artificial intelligence (AI) in government decision-making. Eppink was invited by the committee because of his involvement in K.W. v. Armstrong, the ACLU Idaho lawsuit challenging cuts to Medicaid support for adults with developmental disabilities based on secret algorithms and formulas used by the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. In 2016, Idaho's federal district court ruled that the Department's system was unconstitutional. This will be the first time the ACLU, a national civil rights organization, has testified to Congress regarding artificial intelligence.

The ACLU testimony highlights problems with the use of AI and automated systems in government decision-making uncovered in KW v. Armstrong, including a lack of transparency concealing government use of automated systems and flaws within those systems. The testimony also emphasizes the need for constitutional and regulatory safeguards via regulation specific to AI and automated systems, and for those impacted by AI decisions to be "integrally involved with the development, implementation, and assessment of those systems."

"Fairness, due process, and transparency—not government secrecy—are the Idaho values my clients and their families expect," Eppink said. "We've had to fight for them against the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare for over a decade now. I'm encouraged the Senate is taking seriously the dangers of artificial intelligence and automated systems like these, and I hope the lessons this lawsuit teaches help Congress protect these constitutional rights." **bt**

—Source: ***ACLU Idaho***

RSA Conference Concludes 32nd Annual Cyber Events

SAN FRANCISCO, CA —RSA Conference™, the world's leading cybersecurity conferences and expositions, concluded its 32nd annual event at the Moscone Center in San Francisco on April 27, 2023. The year's event attracted over 40,000 attendees, including 650+ speakers, 500+ exhibitors and 500+ members of the media. Throughout the week, attendees networked on the expo floor and participated in keynote presentations, track sessions, tutorials, seminars and special networking events.

Several of the most pressing topics discussed during this year's Conference included issues surrounding intelligence and threat modeling, the changing face of ransomware and malware, challenges and opportunities presented by generative AI and the wide-reaching impact of open source.

RSA Conference 2024 will take place May 6-9, 2024, as it returns to San Francisco at the Moscone Center. **bt**

(Above) Mayor London Breed (center), 45th mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, visits RSAC 2023 during opening ceremonies.

— Photo credit: ***RSA/RSAC***

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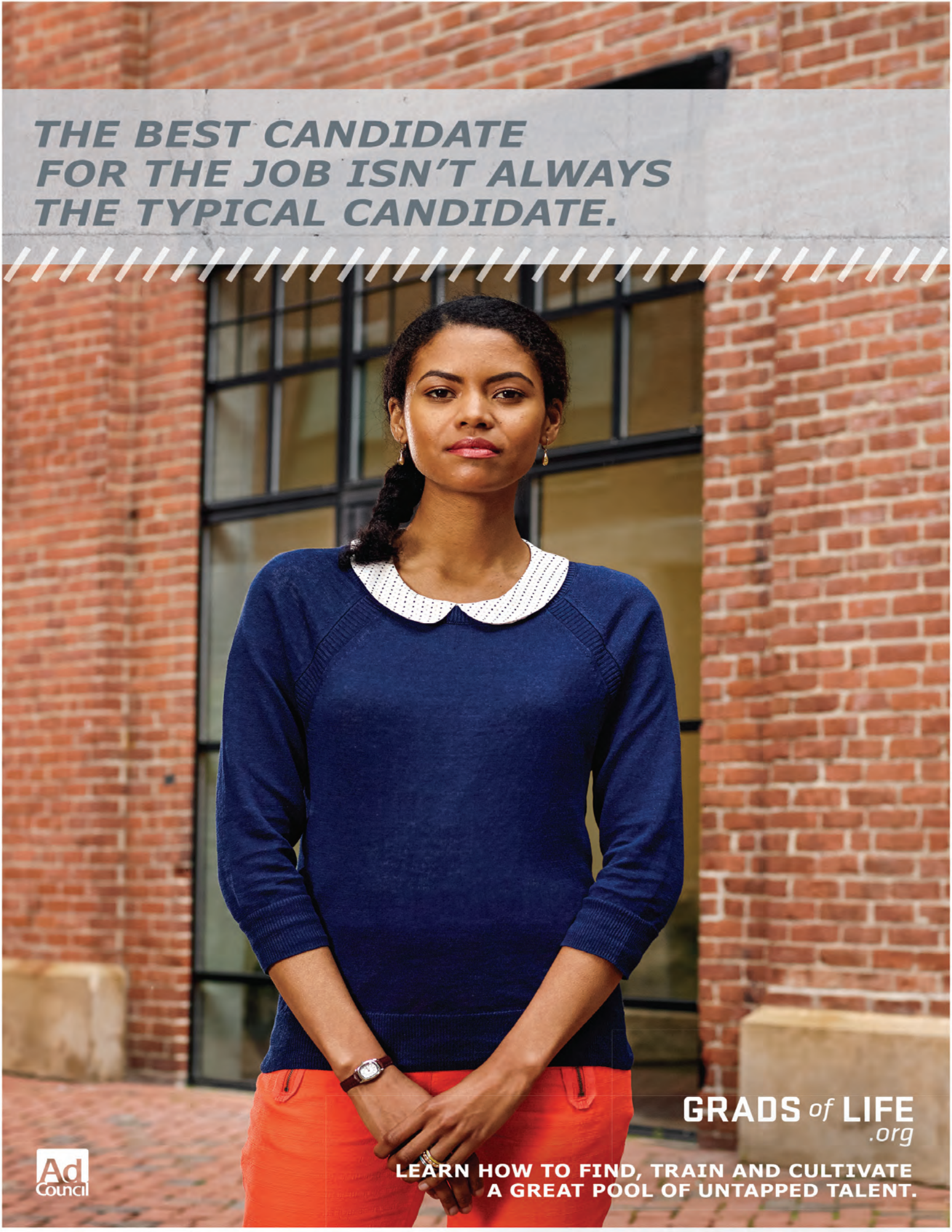
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Lieutenant General Vincent R. Stewart

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A new business-technology paradigm shift was underway, shaking up the work place and forever changing how corporations large and small would operate. Corporate computer usage skyrocketed, demand for computer programmers, analysts, operators, and managers also skyrocketed. Inspired by these emerging societal opportunities in the mid 1970's, Earl A. Pace, Jr. and David Wimberly launched BDPA — Black Data Processing Associates — expanding new opportunities for African Americans to upskill far beyond data-entry positions. And this journey begins.

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