

Position Statement: Terry Benzel, June 2026

The role of computing in society is at a major inflection point. Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, quantum computing, and pervasive digital technologies are transforming how we live, work, and connect. This moment presents an opportunity for the IEEE Computer Society to expand its impact beyond its traditional strengths, accelerating our progress toward applying technology to improve global conditions.

Throughout my career, I have worked at the intersection of research, technology, and organizational leadership. As a research leader, IEEE Fellow, former industry executive, advisor to emerging technology companies, and current Computer Society Vice President, I have learned that meaningful progress comes from bringing people together around shared goals and then executing effectively. If elected, I will focus on strengthening trust in computing, developing future leaders, building stronger connections among academia, industry, and government, and helping the Society thrive in the AI era.

Trust is the foundation of our profession. As Vice President and Chair of the Computer Society's Ethics and Integrity initiative and the Computer Society representative to the CRA CLEAR Task Force, I have seen how rapidly evolving technologies, particularly AI, are challenging traditional approaches to publications, conferences, and research practice. We must provide practical guidance, consistent processes, and effective tools that help our volunteers uphold the highest standards while maintaining a culture of innovation and openness.

Our future depends on attracting, developing, and retaining the next generation of computing leaders. Students and young professionals should view the Computer Society as a place to learn, contribute, build community networks, and grow into leadership roles. The Computer Society has been part of my journey since graduate school. I am committed to broadening participation by creating pathways for members from all regions, backgrounds, and career stages to contribute, lead, and succeed.

The Computer Society is uniquely positioned to connect research, industry, and society. I have spent my career bringing diverse communities together to solve important problems. I will strengthen partnerships that translate technical advances into real-world impact and foster engagement among practitioners, technology leaders, researchers, and organizations.

As AI reshapes research, education, and professional practice, our challenge is helping people and organizations adapt effectively. The Computer Society can play a leading role by providing practical guidance, fostering collaboration, and sharing best practices that help members succeed while ensuring advances in computing continue to benefit humanity.

Together, we can build a Computer Society that is trusted, innovative, inclusive, and essential to computing professionals worldwide.