

Rising Engineering Stars

By Lauren Muskett,
Assistant Managing Editor

Meet the innovative engineers who are making a big impact on the industry.

Design News — in partnership with Mouser Electronics — set out to find the most innovative and influential design engineers and the response was overwhelming. Readers sent us stories of engineers who are creating new trends, significantly performing in the industry, and creating new products that are improving and changing lives. It was no easy task for our editorial team and advisory board to choose the top innovator, but after sorting through all of the nominations there was one person who stood out — **Punya Prakash**.

Prakash is an applications engineer leading the Singlecore Processor team's extensive smart home initiative with Texas Instruments (TI) where she is innovating home and building automation. Her hard work and proven track record as a leader made her stand out as a top rising engineering star.

"Punya Prakash is not only a leader and a hard worker, but the fact that people turn to her for technical advice is a biggie: peer respect. She's active in community programs and looks like the fastest moving comet in this bunch," said Design News Senior Technical Editor, Ann Thryft.

Within the three years that Prakash has been with TI she has earned many achievements and gained the respect of her colleagues. She stands out in a large corporation where the talent pool is swimming with top-notch engineers.

"Punya Prakash has an impressive track record at a large corporation that already is loaded with engineering talent," said Chris J. Loberg, senior field technical marketing manager with Tektronix and a member of Design News' advisory board. "Punya is achieving in that competitive environment around all of that talent. She has had to be on her game with even more pressure than perhaps someone in a smaller corporate environment. Impressive."

The people who made our list really stood out of the pack and are making big moves in the engineering world. Their accomplishments and commitment to their work show that they are striving to advance the engineering world and consistently trying to improve our daily lives.

"A sincere congratulations to the nominees. As a company on the forefront of technology, Mouser is excited to be part of the Rising Stars program to recognize today's brightest young engineers," said Larry Johannes, Mouser Electronics' vice president of strategic marketing. "Every day, engineers are developing new, life-changing devices. As a distributor of the newest semiconductors and electronic components, Mouser is helping turn their ideas into the working prototypes to become the advanced products of tomorrow. We applaud their innovation."



Veronica Santos

Assistant Professor

Arizona State University

ASU graduate student Kevin Bair was working with Santos in developing multiple anthropomorphic robotic hands in early 2011. Things were progressing on this sophisticated project when Bair tragically lost his life in a kayak accident. Although Santos and the lab were grieved by his loss, they eventually pressed forward. With Santos' guidance ASU completed the project and named the robotic hand "Bair Claw" in Bair's honor.



Dr. Khaled Shahwan

Director-Automotive Composites Consortium & Engineering Specialist

Chrysler Group LLC

Shahwan is a world-recognized expert in the field of advanced lightweight composites. His contributions to the active and passive safety fields for automotive technologies are numerous especially in developing and deploying state-of-the-art virtual/predictive methodologies used by the three major US automotive OEMs. He has led numerous industry-academia-DoE collaborations and continues to do so. Dr. Shahwan is a member of the ACC, USCAR, MTT, and USDRIVE teams.



Patrick Marcus

President

Marcus Engineering LLC

Marcus' background includes founding and growing high technology companies. He also has extensive experience in electronics, scientific imaging, biotechnology, neuroprosthetics, and solar. Marcus teaches, mentors, and serves on advisory boards. He enjoys creating public sculptures that integrate solar-powered displays of light located around the country and is a public art sculpture designer and engineering resource for local artists.



Dave Tyner

Industry Wizard

Shaw Group

Tyner is a cutting-edge thinker and doer who is helping to shape and transform the industrial engineering world. Tyner has established one of the world's largest online industrial design software communities (www.davetyner.com/forum), which has enabled thousands of engineers to communicate and collaborate to solve problems in their everyday jobs. He is bringing together the design and engineering community, enabling them to share solutions.

