

# 2026 Western Regional Conference

Friday, April 17, 2026 · University Union Suites · The University of Texas at El Paso

## Program at a Glance

**REGISTRATION & WELCOME BREAKFAST** 7:30 – 8:45 AM · UE3 3rd Floor Center Lounge  
Name tags, light breakfast, and coffee service.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PANEL** 8:45 – 9:45 AM · Union Cinema, Room 109

### Beyond the User: Can Traditional HFE Methods Meet the Demands of Community-Based Participatory Research?

Chaired by **Dr. Priyadarshini Pennathur** · With community partners from UTEP CCE, EP VIBE, Philosophic Systems Institute, Homeless Coalition

— 9:45 – 10:00 AM Morning Break —

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS** 10:00 – 11:00 AM · Union Cinema, Room 109

### Human Factors Considerations for Enhancing Joint Human-AI Performance: From Function Allocation to Human-AI System Test and Evaluation

**Dr. Emilie M. Roth** · Roth Cognitive Engineering · HFES Fellow

— 11:00 – 11:15 AM Break & Group Photo —

**SESSION 1 | CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS** 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM · Four Tracks

#### 1A

The Working Body:  
Performance, Strain  
& Support

Elkins 314

#### 1B

Adversarial Minds:  
Cyber Decisions &  
Deception

Ray 309

#### 1C

Designing for  
Communities: Access,  
Mobility & Health

Smiley 310

#### 1D

Practice of HF:  
Industry, Policy &  
Research Systems

Wiggins 315

— 12:15 – 1:15 PM Catered Lunch · University Suite, Room 312 —

**SESSION 2 | CONCURRENT PRESENTATIONS** 1:15 – 2:15 PM · Four Tracks

#### 2A

The Working Body:  
Wearables, Augmen-  
tation & Measurement

Elkins 314

#### 2B

Bad Decisions II:  
Shortcuts &  
Systems

Ray 309

#### 2C

Care, Communi-  
cation & Human  
Connection

Smiley 310

#### 2D

Technology  
Reshaping How &  
Where We Work

Wiggins 315

— 2:15 – 2:30 PM Afternoon Break —

**INDUSTRY PANEL** 2:30 – 3:30 PM · Union Cinema, Room 109

### Humans and Advanced Technology in the Modern Workplace: An Evolving Interdependence

Chaired by **Dr. Amit Lopes** · Panelists from ILC Dover, Mount Franklin Foods, Eagle Foods

**POSTER SESSION** 3:30 – 4:30 PM · University Suite, Room 312

13 posters across four themes: Gait & Rehabilitation · Workplace Ergonomics & Safety · Community Health · AI & Cyber Systems

**AWARDS & CLOSING REMARKS** 4:30 – 5:15 PM · Union Cinema, Room 109

Best presentation awards (3), best poster awards (3), student acknowledgments, and sponsor thanks.

**NETWORKING RECEPTION** 5:15 – 6:00 PM · UE3 3rd Floor Lounges

Light finger food and beverages. All attendees welcome.

#### TECHNICAL PROGRAM COMMITTEE

P.R. Pennathur · P. Aggarwal · G. Ibarra-Mejia · J. Kim