



Northeastern University  
College of Engineering  
**Chemical Engineering**

# OUTSTANDING RECENT FACULTY HIRES

Rebecca Kuntz Willits, chairperson of Northeastern's Chemical Engineering Department, is proud to recognize our most recent faculty's accomplishments.



**Srirupa Chakraborty**

**Assistant Professor**

**PhD:** University of Buffalo, 2017

**Postdoctoral Fellow:** Los Alamos National Laboratory, 2018-21

**Joining Northeastern:** January 2022

**Scholarship Focus:** Theoretical biology and biophysics

**Awards and Recent Projects:**

- Wiley Computers in Chemistry Outstanding Postdoctoral Award – American Chemical Society, Division of Computers in Chemistry, 2020
- Los Alamos National Laboratory Spot Award “in recognition of significant dedication and contribution to COVID-19 response,” 2020



**Sara M. Hashmi**

**Assistant Professor**

**PhD:** Yale University, 2008

**Joined Northeastern:** August 2019

**Scholarship Focus:** Complex fluids, biomaterials & soft materials: manipulation of nanoscale and single-particle properties to control macroscale transport & assembly; microfluidics for biomedical, pharmaceutical & energy applications



**Hannah Sayre**

**Assistant Professor**

**PhD:** The Ohio State University, 2018

**Postdoctoral Fellow:** Princeton University, 2018-21

**Joined Northeastern:** August 2021

**Scholarship Focus:** Design photocatalysts to improve efficiency and reactivity. Understand light-activated chemical reactions with time-resolved spectroscopy

**NORTHEASTERN ENGINEERING**



### **Rebecca Kuntz Willits**

#### **Professor and Chairperson**

**PhD:** Cornell University, 1999

**Joined Northeastern:** July 2020

**Scholarship Focus:** Neural regenerative strategies, neural mechanosensing, diversity and inclusion in engineering

#### **Awards and Recent Projects:**

- Fellow, BMES, 2020
- Fellow, AIMBE, 2017
- “Toward a Mechanotransduction Mimic of the Neural Stem Cell Niche,” NSF (PI), 2019
- “Collaborative Research: Professional Preparation of Underrepresented Minority PhD’s and Post-Docs for a Career in Engineering Academia,” NSF (Co-PI), 2017



### **Benjamin Woolston**

#### **Assistant Professor**

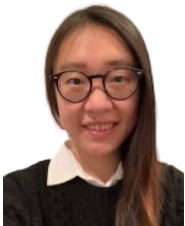
**PhD:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2017

**Joined Northeastern:** January 2020

**Scholarship Focus:** Metabolic engineering and synthetic biology for sustainable biochemical production and human health

#### **Awards and Recent Projects:**

- “A Co-Culture Method for Enhanced Biofuel and Biochemical Production from Untreated Waste Gases,” MassVentures (PI), 2021
- “Zero-Carbon Biofuels: An Optimized Two-Stage System for High Productivity Conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> to Liquid Fuel,” DOE ARPA-E (Co-PI), 2021



### **Qing Zhao**

#### **Assistant Professor**

**PhD:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2019

**Postdoctoral Fellow:** Princeton University, 2018-21

**Joining Northeastern:** January 2022

**Scholarship Focus:** Computational catalyst and material design for sustainable energy applications

#### **Awards and Recent Projects:**

- ACS Chemical Computing Group Excellence Award in Computational Chemistry, 2020
- Journal of Chemical Theory and Computation ACS Editors’ Choice, 2018

# **INNOVATING FOR SOCIETY**

Northeastern University  
**College of Engineering**

360 Huntington Avenue  
Boston, MA 02115

**coe.northeastern.edu**

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## About Northeastern Chemical Engineering

The department has **34** tenured/tenure-track and affiliated faculty who have received over **\$14M** in external research awards between 2019 and 2021. Our downtown Boston campus facilitates collaborations with major medical centers, other universities, research laboratories, national laboratories, and industry. Our faculty actively contribute to scholarship to solve problems related to health, sustainability, and energy.

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