CCIS student awarded National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Alex Ahmed, a Ph.D. candidate in the College of Computer and Information Science, was recently awarded a National Science Foundation fellowship in graduate research for a proposal titled "Mobile Analysis of Prosodic Patterns in Transgender Individuals."

"There's no one experience that captures every trans person's experience," Ahmed, herself a transgender woman, says. "For many, voice is a big issue. There's no medical help for that."

And while vocal coaches are an option for transgender individuals who choose to train their voices, they are often cost-prohibitive. Ahmed, who is part of the Personal Health Informatics program, was awarded the grant for her proposal to create an app that helps not only transgender people, but also non-binary people - those who don't identify with the male/female binary - gain better control of how their voices sound. The grant gives Ahmed access to $34,000 per year, for three years over a period of five years.

Please read full article here

CCIS professor hosts robotics conference at Northeastern

Northeastern's College of Computer and Information Science was the site of the annual New England Manipulation Symposium (NEMS) on May 22. The event, organized by Robert Platt, an assistant professor in CCIS, brought regional experts in the field together to present recent developments in robotics.

"It reflects the development of research in robot grasping and manipulation," says Platt of the symposium, which he has attended on and off in the 11 years since its launch. "It used to be that nobody cared about [manipulation] because it was just too hard from a scientific perspective to do. Now, it's become a central part..."
Tech industry leaders gather, discuss workforce diversity initiatives

On June 10, Northeastern University - Seattle hosted a gathering of regional technology executives and local political figures to discuss initiatives being taken to increase diversity and equity in the technology industry. The event, held in partnership with the Washington Technology Industry Association (WTIA) and the Northwest Technology Equity Initiative (NWTEI), welcomed back Rev. Jesse Jackson as a guest speaker.

Tayloe Washburn, Dean and CEO of Northeastern University - Seattle, kicked off the event by recognizing several leaders in the tech community associated with the WTIA's Diversity Action Committee including Sarah Bird, CEO of MOZ and Liz Pearce of Liquid Planner. They were joined by leaders from the Rainbow PUSH Coalition, an advocacy group founded and led by Jackson.