ABSTRACT:
US educational institutions were founded in a context based on colonialism and structural discrimination endemic to any modern organization. Structural racism, heteronormativity, ageism, sexism, cissexism, ableism, and numerous privileges not limited to heritage, national origin, class, physical appearance, health status, and unearned fortune have situated individuals in their current roles across academia. If we mean what we often say regarding social justice, equity, and inclusion in our universities, we will commit to ensuring our departments and programs match up to our words. As an interdisciplinary field, materials science and engineering should have a greater potential to be inclusive than engineering disciplines with more rigid pathways to research careers and faculty positions. Yet, across several measures, and clearly many elements of identity are not readily measured, we are among the least racially and ethnically diverse of engineering disciplines.

BIOGRAPHY:
Dr. Keith J. Bowman is Dean of the College of Engineering and Information Technology (COEIT) and Constellation Professor at UMBC, the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. UMBC was recently recognized by USNEWS as the 9th most innovative university, just ahead of the University of Texas, Berkeley, and Brown. Dr. Bowman received BS and MS degrees from Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) and a PhD degree in materials science and engineering from the University of Michigan. He has served as a visiting professor at the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany and the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He is a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society. Awards while serving as a faculty member at Purdue University from 1988 until 2011, include Purdue’s highest teaching award, the Charles Murphy Undergraduate Teaching Award. In 2007, he received the Purdue College of Engineering Mentoring Award and he became the first Professor of Engineering Education (by courtesy) from MSE. In spring, 2018 he was recognized with the third University of Michigan Materials Science and Engineering Distinguished Alumni Lecture Award.