



Wade Shen and Lara Pierpoint appointed Actuate's new co-CEOs

Founding CEO Arati Prabhakar to lead White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

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Palo Alto, CA – September 28, 2022 – Actuate is excited and honored that the United States Senate has confirmed Actuate's founding CEO Arati Prabhakar to the position of Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy. President Biden nominated Prabhakar for this position in June. At the White House, Prabhakar will also serve as Assistant to the President for Science and Technology. In this capacity, she will be the President's Chief Advisor for Science and Technology, a co-chair of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, and a member of the President's Cabinet.

Prabhakar is resigning from Actuate effective immediately to assume her new roles.

Actuate's board is pleased to announce it is appointing Wade Shen and Lara Pierpoint co-CEOs. Wade and Lara have been integral to building and leading Actuate from its inception; together they provide important continuity in their passionate commitment to Actuate's mission to develop new approaches to this century's most pressing challenges.

"We at Actuate are thrilled for Arati and for the contributions we know she will make to the U.S. science and technology enterprise. Although we'll miss her, Actuate will remain on its current course, full steam ahead," says Pierpoint.



“We’ll continue to pursue Actuate’s important mission: research and development that results in solutions for the real world,” says Shen.

Wade Shen, CEO, Actuate Trust and Democracy

Shen is highly qualified for his new role as Actuate co-CEO. Before founding Actuate with Prabhakar, he had years of startup, academic, and public service experience. He developed and executed innovative, accelerated R&D programs as a Program Manager at DARPA, where he oversaw a portfolio of machine learning and artificial intelligence programs. Tools from one of those programs are used today by hundreds of law enforcement agencies to find human trafficking networks. Shen also was a researcher and leader at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratory, where he worked on and oversaw research in artificial intelligence and natural language understanding. At Actuate, Shen will continue to lead several efforts: the DataSafes program, the Actuate Democracy portfolio, and dissemination of Actuate’s solutions R&D model to non-profit and government partners.

The DataSafes program aims to synthesize emerging computer science innovations in security and data analysis to help resolve the decades-old and intensifying conflict between the need to guard the privacy of data owners and the desire to put powerful datasets containing sensitive information to work for good. Unleashing such data-informed research would provide a powerful tool to help improve public health, better educate children, reduce crime and incarceration, improve public services, and address many more of society’s most pressing challenges.

Actuate Democracy aims to use rapid, real-world experimentation to test ways to reverse the vicious cycles of political polarization and democratic erosion in America. Key to the project are the creation of an evaluation infrastructure in



which experiments can be conducted quickly and realistically, and a Democracy Fellows effort to develop a portfolio of promising solutions.

Shen also leads dissemination of the Actuate model to nonprofits and government agencies that develop solutions for different public and societal purposes. “We hope not only to deploy this effective method for speeding effective innovations to scale in our own work, but also to help other organizations to make urgently needed advances in other important sectors,” says Shen.

Lara Pierpoint, CEO, Actuate Climate

Pierpoint brings deep expertise and passion to the problem of meaningfully reducing carbon emissions. Prior to joining Actuate, Pierpoint led Exelon’s Corporate Strategy technical team and ran the utility’s partnership R&D program. She also directed the Office of Energy Supply Security in the U.S. DOE Office of Policy and Systems Analysis, where she was responsible for policy and analysis related to coal, gas, and nuclear power and grid security. She served as a AAAS Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Pierpoint received her doctorate from MIT in Engineering Systems, studying deployment of advanced technologies for nuclear waste recycling.

At Actuate, Pierpoint continues to develop a new kind of innovation work for the climate arena, aimed at galvanizing mass deployment of solutions and infrastructure that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. She and the Actuate Climate team are designing a variety of programs, applying a systems approach to unlock GHG emissions reductions at massive speed and scale. The first of these programs aims to demonstrate a seamless, user-friendly, and fully automated demand-response system in order to accelerate renewables adoption and



electrification. Another program focuses on a new model for ubiquitous fast EV charging stations. Pierpoint's wide range of experience affords her the big-picture perspective needed to innovate on the whole system, as well as knowledge on how to try new mechanisms and forge new partnerships to solve the climate problems that are currently no one else's job to solve.

"Actuate is on track to build a new approach: goal-driven innovation with rigorous experimentation that initiates structural change," says Pierpoint. "This is essential to meeting the greatest aspirations of our time."