



Zahra Shahbazi
Distinguished Lasallian – Educator
2024-2025

It is my great joy and honor to present this year's Distinguished Lasallian Educator, Dr. Zahra Shahbazi.

Dr. Shahbazi is a professor in the Mechanical Engineering Department and currently serves as Chair of the Council for Faculty Affairs. She exemplifies the Lasallian mission in every facet of her career—with a persistent commitment to academic excellence, service to community, and the holistic development of her students.

Her research is as inspiring as it is wide-ranging. From AI-driven inspection systems and machine learning to nano-bio-robotics, bio-inspired design, additive manufacturing, and engineering education, Zahra is a leader in pushing the frontiers of science and technology. She has secured multiple NSF and industry grants, published in high-impact venues, and brought students—graduate and undergraduate—into meaningful research. Her interdisciplinary collaborations reflect her belief that engineering must serve humanity and be informed by diverse perspectives.

As an educator, Dr. Shahbazi brings energy, compassion, and creativity into the classroom. Her students know her as someone who believes in them, challenges them, and makes time for them—always. Whether it's through advising, mentoring, or simply listening, she helps her students grow not just as engineers, but as people.

She is also a leading voice in faculty governance, advocating for fairness, transparency, and inclusion. She brings people together, leads with wisdom, and is deeply respected across the campus.

Outside of her professional life, Zahra is a loving and devoted mother to her son, Idin, and the partner of Dr. Sina Shahbaz Mohammadi. Her ability to balance the demands of leadership, scholarship, and family is a reflection of her strength and grace. She inspires us with her intellect, uplifts us with her kindness, and reminds us of what it truly means to live our values.

Please join me in celebrating Dr. Zahra Shahbazi, our 2025 Distinguished Lasallian Educator. Congratulations, Zahra!