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## Rice University: A Global Hub for Engineering Education and Research Innovation

Date: Friday, October 24, 2025 17:00-18:00 Venue: Faculty of Engineering Bldg. 2, Room 31A

## Abstract:

Rice University is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious private universities in the United States, renowned for its academic excellence and groundbreaking research accomplishments. Dean Luay Nakhleh and Professor Junichiro Kono will introduce Rice University and its School of Engineering and Computing, highlighting Rice's distinctive strengths in education, research, and innovation. The presentation will provide an overview of Rice's interdisciplinary approach to solving global challenges, opportunities for graduate study and research collaboration, and examples of cutting-edge work in areas such as nanotechnology, materials science, and quantum engineering. The session will also feature the Smalley-Curl Institute, Rice's interdisciplinary center for advanced research at the intersection of physics, engineering, and materials science.

## Prof. Luay Nakhleh Dean, School of Engineering and Computing, Rice University



Prof. Junichiro Kono Director, Smalley-Curl Institute, Rice University



Bio 1: Luay Nakhleh is the William and Stephanie Sick Dean of the George R. Brown School of Engineering and Computing at Rice University, where he also serves as a professor of Computer Science and Biosciences, and is a former chair of the Department of Computer Science. He holds a bachelor's degree in computer science from the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology, a master's degree from Texas A&M University, and a Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Texas at Austin, awarded in 2004. Dr. Nakhleh joined the Rice faculty that same year. He served as chair of the Department of Computer Science from 2017 to 2020 and was appointed dean in January 2021.Dr. Nakhleh's research lies at the intersection of computing and biology, with a focus on developing novel computational methodologies and software to study the evolutionary history of genes and genomes, as well as the genetic relationships among species.

Bio 2: Junichiro Kono received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in applied physics from the University of Tokyo in 1990 and 1992, respectively, and completed his Ph.D. in physics from the State University of New York at Buffalo in 1995. He was a postdoctoral research associate at the University of California Santa Barbara from 1995-1997, and the W. W. Hansen Experimental Physics Laboratory Fellow in the Department of Physics at Stanford University from 1997-2000. He joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of Rice University in 2000 as an Assistant Professor and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2005 and to Professor in 2009. He is currently Karl F. Hasselmann Chair in Engineering, serving as a Professor in the Departments of Electrical & Computer Engineering, Physics & Astronomy, and Materials Science & Nanoengineering and Director of the Smalley-Curl Institute at Rice University.

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未来社会協創国際卓越大学院(WINGS CFS)

量子·半導体科学技術国際卓越大学院(WINGS-QSTEP) 統合物質·科学国際卓越大学院(MERIT-WINGS) 高齢社会総合研究国際卓越大学院(WINGS-GLAFS)

「グリーントランスフォーメーション(GX)を先導する高度人材育成」プロジェクト(SPRING GX)

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