Engineering Program for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (EPIE) and the Division of Industrial Relations at the Cullen College of Engineering present:

ZUZI EPLE

## SEMINAR SERIES

## From Star Trek to NASA to Becoming a Venture Partner

## ABSTRACT

An engineer's career is not always a straight line. Becoming an engineer can open up possibilities and opportunities that you may have never thought possible. Mr. Steven González will share his story on how he went from growing up in New York City to seeding startups with NASA technologies and a plethora of roles in between. He will share the insights he has gained from working with startups for the last dozen years and from being a Venture Partner at Seldor Capital.

## BIO

Mr. González is a Venture Partner at Seldor Capital. The venture fund focuses on startups with a space application or that leverage space technology to address the United Nations Sustainability Goals. Mr. González recently retired from NASA, where for over 32 years, he applied his skills in visioning, strategy, innovation and fostering collaborations to benefit the human exploration of space. At the NASA/Johnson Space Center (JSC), he led the team to develop the 20-year strategy for the Center and was instrumental in creating numerous strategic initiatives that connected NASA to the entrepreneur and innovation community in Houston.

Mr. González has been embedded in the innovation ecosystem in Houston as the NASA Executive Liaison at the Houston Technology Center (HTC) and the NASA Executive Liaison at the Greater Houston Partnership (GHP). During his time at GHP he created a stronger alliance between NASA and the startup community and strategized with GHP on the future direction of the innovation leadership ecosystem in Houston. Additionally, he created collaborations with organizations in the energy, medical, automotive industries and with other government agencies to seed and grow startups and build innovation ecosystems in New York City, Brownsville, TX, Puerto Rico and New Mexico.



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