



30 July 2019

Attn: Julia Stoyanovich
Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, *Tandon School of Engineering*
Assistant Professor of Data Science, *Center for Data Science*
New York University
370 Jay Street
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Via Email: stoyanovich@nyu.edu

Re: IEEE-USA support for the establishment of the New York City Center for Responsible AI

IEEE-USA is pleased to support New York University's (NYU) proposal to establish the New York City Center for Responsible AI in response to the New York City Economic Development Corporation's Request for Expressions of Interest.

IEEE-USA represents approximately 180,000 engineers, scientists, and allied professionals – 8,500 of whom are in New York State, and more than 3,500 in New York City – across the United States. Many of them are actively conducting research and development into artificial intelligence, privacy and cybersecurity, IoT, and advanced computing as well as other foundational and emerging technologies. We are the American component of the IEEE – the largest organization of technology professionals in the world, representing more than 450,000 engineers, scientists and allied professionals worldwide.

IEEE-USA believes that all levels of government have a critical role in promoting responsible innovation and governance of AI, and mitigating the potential risks and challenges of implementation. In 2016, IEEE-USA stated that the U.S. government should adopt AI policies that develop a workforce of well qualified AI personnel, support the R&D needed to ensure continued U.S. leadership in AI, provide effective regulation of AI to ensure public well-being while fostering a robust AI industry, and, facilitate public understanding of the rewards and risks of AI.¹ In facilitating these goals, the IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems has published the evolving *Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-Being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems*.² IEEE is also developing technical standards that offer an extensive framework to prioritize ethical considerations in the design, development, and deployment of autonomous and intelligent systems (A/IS).³

NYU's proposal is synergistic with IEEE-USA advocacy and the substantive work of IEEE more broadly. Notably, NYU's emphasis on merging expertise in technology and policy, and the close integration of their proposed efforts around applied research, data governance, education, and innovative businesses, mirror the elements that make IEEE a leader in responsible AI. We expect these elements will make NYU's Center for Responsible AI into a leading voice for ensuring that society's implementation and use of AI is equitable and just.

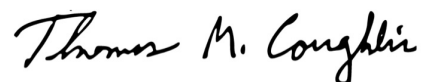
¹ IEEE-USA Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Systems Policy Committee. (2017). *Position Statement: Artificial Intelligence Research, Development and Regulation*. Retrieved from <https://ieeepusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AI0217.pdf>.

² Ethics in Action: The IEEE Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems. (n.d.) Retrieved from <https://ethicsinaction.ieee.org/>.

³ IEEE. (2018). *Ethically Aligned Design: A Vision for Prioritizing Human Well-Being with Autonomous and Intelligent Systems – Version 2*. Retrieved from https://standards.ieee.org/content/dam/ieee-standards/standards/web/documents/other/ead_v2.pdf.

IEEE-USA looks forward to hearing about the success of NYU's proposal and we support New York City's continued leadership in developing AI for the public good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Coughlin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Thomas M. Coughlin
2019 IEEE-USA President