

For IEEE Standards Association President-Elect, 2024
IEEE Standards Association President, 2025-2026



ROBBY ROBSON

(Nominated by IEEE Standards Association)

Co-Founder, Chief Science Officer, and Chair of the Board of Directors

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Robby is an entrepreneur and standards professional known for innovation and effective leadership.

After receiving his doctorate from Stanford, Robby spent fifteen years as a research mathematician. He focused on the Learning Technology field after co-creating one of the first online learning systems in 1996. In 2001 he co-founded Eduworks, became its CEO, and retired as CEO in 2022. Robby was elected chair of the IEEE Computer Society Learning Technology Standards Committee in 2000 and has served on numerous Standards Association, Computer Society, and IEEE major Organizational Unit committees and boards. He currently leads the IEEE Standards Association’s Open Source efforts, chairs the IEEE SA Strategic and Emerging Standards Committee’s Inclusive Language Working Group, and serves on the IEEE Educational Activities Board and Industry Engagement Committee. Robby holds several patents, has over 100 publications, has lived in the US, Germany, and France, and has never lost his sense of humor.

Statement

The IEEE Standards Association (IEEE SA) has a well-deserved reputation for producing high quality global standards. Over time, however, its governance has become risk averse and too often prioritizes enforcing rules over supporting standards developers. To grow, deliver member value and achieve mission goals, **IEEE SA must fully commit to:**

- **Serving the working group participants, Societies, and industries that are the foundation of its success, and**
- **Deeply engaging members in innovation and decision-making.**

If elected, these will be my top priorities. In collaboration with the many IEEE leaders who have endorsed me, and with a technically and culturally diverse global leadership team, I will work to

- modernize our tools and streamline operations,
- provide new services (like our Open Source platform) that add value for standards users,
- create on-ramps for young professionals,
- expand and facilitate transnational participation,
- emphasize mentoring and education over policing, and
- **treat standards developers as IEEE SA’s most valuable assets.**

Together, we can transform IEEE SA into a vibrant, service-oriented organization that provides unparalleled member value, is a leader in emerging technologies, and is enthusiastically supported by its members and staff. **I am committed to serving full time as your president,** and I humbly ask for your vote.

IEEE Accomplishments and Activities

(A'99-M'00-SM'05)

- **Chair, IEEE Computer Society Learning Technology Standards Committee (2000 – 2008).** Took over a committee with about thirty active members, fifteen PARs, four Study Groups, and no finished standards. Focused work on core projects, resulting in five published standards. Successfully managed competing internal interests, relations with rival standards bodies, and a liaison with ISO/IEC JTC1 SC36.
- **Computer Society Standards Activity Board (SAB) 2003 – 2021.** Served as vice chair, policies and procedures (P&P) chair, industry engagement chair, and C/SAB standards committee chair. Revised SAB P&P, mentored new Working Groups (WGs), and helped standards committees and WGs with their P&P. Revitalized the C/SAB Standards Committee in 2019 and chaired it through 2021. Helped launch new IEEE standards committees in AI, data compression, distributed ledgers, and online gaming, and introduced training for new WG chairs.
- **Member, Standards Association Standards Board (SASB) (2010, 2011, 2017 - 2018, 2021 - 2023).** Served on SASB and on NesCom, RevCom, PatCom, ProCom and ICom.
- **Member, IEEE-SA Board of Governors (BOG) (2019 - 2021, 2023).** Elected as a member at large in 2019. Chaired the Platform and Infrastructure Strategic Management and Delivery Committee (SMDC) in 2019 and the Market Acceleration and Business Incubation SMDC in 2020, 2021, and 2023. Worked with staff to provide working groups and standards committees access to WebEx. Led group tasked with developing industry offerings in Open Source. Recruited the first revenue-producing Open Source project and launched the IEEE “Serious Open Source for the Benefit of Humanity” (SOSH) event. Continue to lead this effort.
- **Chair, IEEE SA Open Source Committee (OSCom) (2021 – 2023).** Served as first (and only) OSCom chair. Developed and revised the OSCom Operations Manual and integrated Open Source community members into IEEE governance. Positioned IEEE-SA as the leader among major Standards Development Organizations in implementing Open Source. As of this writing, IEEE SA Open has 25 standards projects from 12 Societies and is growing.
- **Chair, Standards Education Committee (SEC) (2019 – 2021).** The SEC was a joint committee of the Education Activities Board (EAB) and Standards Association. Turned a passive committee into an active one with multiple initiatives. Led creation of *Working Group Fundamentals* course. Guided efforts to sunset the SEC in 2021 and move its activities to committees with more support and visibility.
- **Industry Connections Committee (ICCom) (2017 – 2023).** Started on ICom in 2017 (under the SASB). Have been Vice Chair since 2021.
- **Entity Collaborative Activities Governance Board (CAG) (2019, 2020, 2022 – 2023).** BOG representative to the CAG in 2019. Appointed as member by the CAG chair in 2022. Worked with the CAG on Open Source, its P&P, and member value.
- **Member, Industry Engagement Committee (IEC) (2023) and Chair of the IEC Tools Subcommittee (2022-2023).** Managed an existing customer relationship management tool project. Plan to deliver new AI-enabled services in 2023.

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- **Chair, P3400 WG on Inclusive Language in Technical Documentation.** Was invited to chair this important and sometimes contentious WG that operates under the BOG Strategic and Emerging Standards Committee. Started in 2022 and expect to go to SA Ballot in 2023.