



## **Education Nominees**

*Noah Ghebremichael - The University of Auckland*

I am seeking re-election, known for my strong track record in fostering collaboration between EdTechNZ and the Ministry of Education. Notable accomplishments include recruiting a strategic and prominent member to the EdTechNZ EC from the Ministry of Education and securing our stakeholder status in the Curriculum Voices Group (CVG) led by the Ministry of Education, which shapes the future of education in New Zealand, including technology integration. This progress wouldn't have been possible without the support of the EC members, highlighting the need for a shift towards a strategic partnership with the Ministry of Education.

My passion lies in advancing equitable outcomes across education, technology, society, economy, and the environment. My extensive background in higher education management, business development, partnership strategies, and non-profit governance equips me with a strategic mindset and an extensive network. Currently leading the Business Development Team, Executive Development at the University of Auckland Business School, I actively engage with various associations and organisations, including the Trans-Tasman Business Circle and the American Chamber of Commerce. My academic qualifications include Business Information Systems, Management, Technology Commercialisation and Entrepreneurship degrees. I've also completed C-Suite Executive Leadership programme with a specialisation in Technology Leadership.

If re-elected, I will collaborate closely with the EC team to leverage our collective network and connections, providing valuable insights to EdTechNZ members. My objective is to elevate EdTechNZ as the preferred partner for strategic initiatives within New Zealand and on the global stage, offering our members a valuable platform for insights, connections, and future foresight. I believe that our foundation is strong and that we can expand our strategic and governance work as we move forward into the future.

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*Yilei Zhang - University of Canterbury*

I am an associate professor in the department of mechanical engineering at University of Canterbury (UC). I received a PhD in mechanical engineering from Iowa State University, USA, 2007. I worked as a senior research engineer at Goodyear Corporate Research for 4 years before moving back to the academy. Since then, I have worked at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore as an assistant professor before joining UC in 2019. I also received a Postgraduate Certificate in Tertiary Teaching at University of Canterbury in 2021.

I have more than 10 years' teaching experience for both undergraduate students and postgraduate students. I am a fellow of Higher Education Academy (HEA), UK since 2021. My teaching and research experience in intelligent design and manufacturing (such as AI, IoT, AR/VR for Industry 4.0) allows me to appreciate the importance of advanced technologies in higher education. I'd like to serve on the EdTechNZ Executive Council to promote advanced education technologies, such as AI, IoT, AR/VR, to improve students' engagement and learning experience. If elected, I would bring my teaching and research experience in AI/IoT/AR/VR to promote advanced education technology for students in NZ, which I think would be critical for future education.

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