| Laurie Williams  <https://collaboration.csc.ncsu.edu/laurie/>  Distinguished University Professor  Department of Computer Science  North Carolina State University  <https://www.linkedin.com/in/laurieawilliams/>  <https://twitter.com/lauriewilliams>  <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurie_Williams_(software_engineer)>  *She joined the North Carolina State University in 2000, and was named a distinguished professor in 2018*  *one of the two inaugural winners of the ACM SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award*  <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Cln2viUAAAAJ&hl=en>  ICSE 2026: Apr 2026  Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  <http://www.icse-conferences.org/> |
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| 36: Software Security with Laurie Williams (North Carolina State University) |
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| In this episode, we interviewed Laurie Williams, a Distinguished University Professor at the Department of Computer Science at North Carolina State University.  You can watch the video of this interview on YouTube, with subtitles available in both Portuguese and English, at <https://youtu.be/WyTOtlY3NFY>.  Laurie’s links:   * Webpage: <https://collaboration.csc.ncsu.edu/laurie/> * Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/laurieawilliams/> * Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lauriewilliams> * Wikipedia: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laurie_Williams_(software_engineer)> * Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=Cln2viUAAAAJ&hl=en>   Links related to the interview:   * FSE 2024 (Porto de Galinhas, Brazil) <https://conf.researchr.org/venue/fse-2024/fse-2024-venue> * ICSE 2026: Apr 2026, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil <http://www.icse-conferences.org/>   Interviewer:   * Adolfo Neto (PPGCA UTFPR) <https://adolfont.github.io/>   Our website is: <https://fronteirases.github.io/>  Opening Song: Extreme Energy (Music Today 80)  Composed & Produced by: Anwar Amr Video  Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ZZbAkKNx7s> |

(ADOLFO) Hi everyone, welcome to another episode of our podcast!

Today I have the pleasure of speaking with Laurie Williams.

She is a Distinguished University Professor at North Carolina State University in Raleigh, USA.

Laurie is one of the two first winners, in 2009, of the [ACM SIGSOFT Influential Educator Award](https://www.sigsoft.org/awards/influentialEducatorAward.html#:~:text=The%20SIGSOFT%20Influential%20Educator%20Award,%2C%20and%2For%20policy%20maker.), for her “contributions to software engineering and computer science education”.

Laurie leads the **Software Engineering Realsearch research group** at NC State, which I visited in 2014-15.

Laurie is a co-director of the **NSA Science of Security Lablet at NC State**.

She was one of the founders of the first **XP/Agile conference**, *XP Universe*, in 2001 in Raleigh which has now grown into the Agile annual conference.

She has published many papers in Software Engineering and Software Security as well as advised many PhD students.

She is also the lead author of the Pair Programming Illuminated book.

Thank you very much for having accepted my invitation, Laurie.

Would you like to add anything to this description of you and your career?

(LAURIE)

**Software Security**

(ADOLFO) Laurie, you have been working with software security for a few years. Can we trust most of the software we use every day?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) What are some of the biggest challenges that software developers face in this area?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) How does your research help software developers address those challenges?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) What advice do you give to software engineers that want to create secure software?

(LAURIE)

**Agile**

(ADOLFO) You co-wrote a book on Pair Programming, and you have also written many papers related to Agile Software Development. In fact, 9 out of your 10 most cited works on Google Scholar are related to Agile. How did you get interested in Agile Software Development?

(LAURIE)

**Women in Computer Science**

(ADOLFO) How did you get interested in Computer Science? How was your education in the area?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) Did you face difficulties at school or work because you are a woman?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) Do you participate in any support groups for women in Computing?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) What would you say to girls or women that want to follow a career in Computing?

(LAURIE)

**Advising and Mentoring**

(ADOLFO) You have advised at least 20 PhDs, some of whom work in the industry (Microsoft, SAS, IBM, Google), and some in academia. Did you serve as a mentor for them in deciding what to do after graduation?

(LAURIE)

**Next Frontier**

(ADOLFO) For you, what is the next frontier in software engineering? (it can be something that you think will happen or something you would like to see happening in our field)

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO) Thanks again for your time, Laurie.

Would you like to leave some final words for our audience?

(LAURIE)

(ADOLFO)

Thank you very much everyone, and see you on the next episode of our podcast.