

Quarterly Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) Teleconference Notes

January 22, 2019, 3:00 – 4:00 PM EST

Web/Mobile: <https://zoom.us/j/5717743008>

Phone: (646) 558-8656 (access code 571 774 3008)

1. Welcome and introductions provided by Rick on Ali's behalf. This call was plagued with technical glitches. Present on the call: Ali Fares, Alton Thompson, Brian Raison, Cynda Clary, Gary Thompson, Wes Burger, Henry Fadamiro, Shannon Archibeque-Engle, Bill Barker, Chris Hamilton, David Leibovitz, and Rick Rhodes. Guests: Patrice Terrell.
2. The agenda was approved by acclamation.
3. Minutes of September 28, 2018 approved by acclamation.
4. Best practice session to have been presented by Patrice Terrell, director of Contracts and Compliance at Fort Valley State University was rescheduled as a result of a connection challenge.
5. Diversity and Inclusion Award. The nomination of candidates for consideration of the ESS Diversity and Inclusion Award was discussed. A number of suggestions were made on ensuring that all of ESS received the solicitation for the award. As one member of the committee observed, it's all about the network.
6. Diversity and Inclusion training. The DCC engaged in a lively discussion on topics for future training/education efforts dedicated to diversity and inclusion. These included: recruiting faculty, recruiting students, retaining faculty: best practices; re-inviting Dionardo Pizaña to present on the topic of dominant cultures; inviting Victoria LaBeaux, National Program Leader-NIFA Division of Community and Education, to share the goals and intents of the [Women and Minorities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Fields Program \(WAMS\)](#); engaging speakers from outside of the "family" (e.g., Bleuzette Marshall, Vice President for Equity, Inclusion and Community, University of Cincinnati), and inviting Leslie Burger, PI WAMS Program at Mississippi State University. Brian Raison gave an overview of the upcoming National Land-Grant Diversity Conference (February 6-8, 2019, Cincinnati Airport Marriot.) He noted that the conference encourages new people coming to engage in an honest conversation, to share values, and to network on the issues associated with diversity and inclusion. Wes Burger asked of the group: what are we doing to increase the bandwidth and the aperture of the pipeline to ensure a diverse student body and university staff? We need to be reaching into K-12 and the community colleges.
7. Identification of incoming chair. While the call wound down, an incoming chair was not identified. The topic will be considered during the next call.
8. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.