

**Diversity Catalyst Committee (DCC) Notes**  
**May 26, 2021, 4:00-5:00 PM EDT**

In attendance: Henry Fadamiro (Chair), Nina Lyon Bennett, John Dieffenbacher-Krall, Drenda Williams, Gary Thompson, Tala Awada, Bret Hess, Majed El-Dweik, Tracy Dougher, Alton Thompson, Wes Burger, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz

1. Approval of the agenda (Henry)
  - **The agenda as amended (with NIFA informational item) was approved by unanimous acclamation.**
2. Approval of minutes, 4/20/2021 (attached, Henry)
  - **The minutes as amended were approved by unanimous acclamation and posted on the ESCOP website.**
3. Informational item: Drenda sought feedback on barriers to USDA and NIFA programs
  - Racial justice and equity group was established at USDA
  - USDA is soliciting feedback from LGUs on barriers to its programs via a 6-question questionnaire that was provided to the DCC
  - All Directors are encouraged to answer these questions and are invited to provide honest feedback on additional topics to NIFA. Feedback will be shared with the USDA group.
  - The questionnaire is will be re-circulated to the DCC after the call
4. Review of nominations for the National Experiment Station Diversity and Inclusion Award (call for nominations, nominations and scoresheet attached, Henry and all)
  - The group discussed and considered each of the four nominees:
    - Dr. Wilson (Auburn University)
    - Dr. Archibeque-Engle (Colorado State University)
    - Dr. Chase et al (University of Florida)
    - Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center (Alcorn State University)
  - **The DCC unanimously elected to grant two awards, one individual (Colorado State University, Dr. Shannon Archibeque-Engle) and one group (University of Florida, Dr. Chase et al).**
    - Both awards will be presented at the 2021 ESS Annual Meeting in Squaw Valley, and time will be set aside for each award winner to make a presentation to the section.
  - **In the future, nominations carrying over from a previous year should have an opportunity to be refreshed:**
    - **To address constructive criticism on the initial submission**
    - **To add information on the current year's activities**
    - **The DCC will contact nominators when the next year's call is released.**
5. DCC Call to Action (v4) (attached, Henry and all)
  - Discussion on the call to action was tabled until the June committee call. The DCC call to action should be finalized after the June meeting, in an effort to be presented to ESCOP at its July virtual business meeting.
6. Additional items
  - John Dieffenbacher-Krall expressed a concern with the ESS meeting being held at a venue with a derogatory and offensive term to Native American groups in its name ("squaw"). John has some ideas on how the ESS can potentially address this concern and will share those ideas with Rick, David and Bret as follow-up to this call.
7. Adjourn