

Diversity Catalyst Committee Meeting November 22, 2022

In attendance: Jamie Larson, David Monks, Brian Raison, Drenda Williams, Tala Awada, Rick Rhodes (Executive Vice-Chair, ex-officio), David Leibovitz (Coordinator, ex-officio)

Meeting administration (Rick Rhodes)

- Rick Rhodes welcomed everybody to the meeting and the group went through a series of introductions. The DCC is still seeking a Chair to serve over the upcoming year.
- **This meeting's agenda was amended to include an update from NIFA. The amended agenda was accepted by acclamation.**
- **The DCC meeting minutes of October 25, 2022 were accepted by acclamation.**

NIFA Update (Drenda Williams)

- Drenda Williams (fmr. Civil Rights Director, NIFA) announced that she has been permanently named the Director of Operations at NIFA. Jessica Creighton (acting Civil Rights Director, NIFA) will continue to represent NIFA and work with the committee going forward.
- NIFA opened a new portal which increased access and simplified the process for signing up to participate on grant panels, which has been successful.
- NIFA established Learning Development teams who will provide Internal employee and External stakeholder training. Contact Drenda Williams to suggest topic areas for NIFA to hold training sessions.

DCC Membership and Chair selection

- In October, Henry Fadamiro left the DCC upon moving into a new position within Texas A&M University. The DCC is seeking a Chair.
- **Brian Raison volunteered to serve as Chair. The DCC will review its rules of operation to confirm whether an ECOP representative is eligible to serve as Chair.**

Diversity Catalyst Committee Mission Statement development

- Brian Raison does a lot of facilitation with university units and non-profit groups, for strategic planning, development of mission and vision.
- **Brian agreed to walk the DCC through a mission statement development process on the next DCC call, which is slated to be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2023 at 4:00 pm ET.**

National Experiment Station Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion award (old 2022 Call for Nominations attached)

- A revised draft of the 2023 Call for Nominations was sent to the DCC for review. One of the goals in 2023 is to amplify the reach of the call for nominations and increase the pool of submissions.
- We will call upon the regional associations to not only send the link widely, but also to identify potential award winners at their member-institutions.
- The DCC can call upon NIFA to assist with spreading the word in its newsletter and via social media channels.

- Press releases went out for each of the 2022 award winners:
 - Anna Katharine Mansfield (Cornell):
<https://cals.cornell.edu/news/2022/09/mansfield-honored-leading-dei-efforts-cornell-agritech>
 - Mississippi Small Farm and Agribusiness Center (Dr. Elizabeth Myles, Alcorn State):
<https://www.alcorn.edu/newsevents/news/story-details/~board/broadcast-news/post/alcorns-mississippi-small-farm-and-agribusiness-center-wins-prestigious-national-experiment-station-award>
- The Call for Nominations will be distributed in the form of a link to a submission form:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DCC-award-2023>
- **The DCC is asked to review and provide comments on the 2023 Call for Nominations before the end of the year. The Call is intended to be released on January 1, 2023.**

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 pm ET.