

Diversity Catalyst Committee Meeting Minutes May 25, 2023, 4:00 pm ET

In attendance: Brian Raison (Chair), Jamie Larson, David Monks, Jessica Creighton, Tracy Dougher, Alton Thompson, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz

Meeting Administration

- **The meeting agenda and minutes of 3/23/2023 were approved by acclamation.**
- The call for nominations for the National Experiment Station Section Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Award is open through June 30, 2023.

Finish What We Started: Launching items on the DCC's Plan of Work

- DCC should begin planning DEI professional development presentations to be offered to agInnovation.
- Rick suggested Jennifer Ballinger, a Tribal Relations Specialist, U.S. Forest Service, who – recently presented to the Northeast Climate Hub on climate equity and research collaborations with [sovereign tribal nations](#).
- There is interest in engaging tribal nations in collaborative ag research:
 - Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) is a hot topic at NIFA, in an effort to elevate Native voices across the federal government.
 - 1994 institutions are developing new IRB processes.
- **The committee is supportive of pursuing Jennifer Ballinger as the first quarterly DCC seminar/presentation, to be held in September.**
- Tracy suggested the book *Incorporating Cultures' Role in the Food and Agricultural Sciences* by Florence Dunkel, who recently spoke at Montana State University. The group discussed the idea of setting up a webinar with Dunkel and purchasing copies of the book for each Experiment Station Director. There might be a post-meeting Q+A component to drive engagement at the session.

Other Business

- The DCC will re-issue its call to action as a “check in” with Experiment Station Directors.
 - **Rick will draft language for consideration by the DCC to promote the CTA to agInnovation.**
- Tracy suggests the DCC might draft a white paper as a follow-up to the first few webinars to capture lessons learned from presentations and DCC activities.
- Alton mentioned that Florida A+M University and University of Florida at Gainesville are concerned about policies being implemented by the state of Florida dictating what can or cannot be taught, what programming can be offered, and what is allowed to be discussed on campus. agInnovation may have resources to provide programming to support colleagues at Florida 1890 and 1862 institutions.
- Suggested reading:
 - Robert Livingston, *"The Conversation"*
 - Steven Gavazzi and Gordon Gee, *"Land-Grant Universities for the Future: Higher Education for the Public Good"*

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm Eastern Time.