

Diversity Catalyst Committee minutes September 28, 2023

In attendance: Brian Raison, Douglas LaVergne, Anna Katharine Mansfield, Jodie Anderson, David Monks, Shawn Donkin, Jamie Larson, Bret Hess, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz

Meeting administration

- **The meeting agenda was approved by acclamation.**
- **The minutes of the DCC meeting of September 28, 2023 were approved by acclamation.**
- As a reminder, to avoid conflicts with holidays, scheduling of DCC engagements has been shifted in November and December
 - November's DCC meeting will be constituted by the upcoming webinar on November 16
 - December's DCC meeting has been moved to December 14, 4:00 pm ET

Review of DCC Webinar announcement

- The DCC will host the inaugural agInnovation Best Practice webinar, titled *A Lived Experience: Tribal Relations and Natural Resource Stewardship*. The presenter is Jennifer Ballinger, Tribal Relations Specialist, US Forest Service
- This webinar will be a storytelling-driven presentation that speaks to Directors' interest in cultivating meaningful relationships with tribal colleges and universities in the Land-grant system.
- The DCC is encouraged to help advertise the webinar to colleagues and other appropriate audiences connected to agInnovation. The committee agreed there is value in sharing the announcement more broadly beyond just our directors.

Future webinar scheduling. Who's next?

- Webinars are intended to be held quarterly. For future webinars, it might be worth contacting previous years' agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Excellence award winners to ask about their interest in being the featured speaker on a webinar.
- Even if there is overlap with remarks presented during past award ceremonies, the stories are worth being amplified to larger audiences.
- Anna Katharine was on the call; she is a previous award winner and could be a featured speaker at a later webinar to discuss campus climate at Cornell AgriTech and results of surveys that were conducted at the college level. This webinar should be scheduled later in 2024 after results are gathered from follow-up surveys yet to be conducted.
- We could reach back out to Jacquelyn Mosley (2023 individual award winner, Arkansas) or the Cloquet Forestry Center (2023 group award winner, Minnesota) to provide more expanded remarks on their work in this domain.
- John Dieffenbacher-Krall (Executive Director, Wabanaki Alliance and formerly UMaine) could be approached to serve as a featured speaker on either issues associated with relationships between tribal nations and state governments, or influencing the internal RFP process at UMaine to call for a statement about diversity, equity, and inclusion from investigators.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Multistate Committee: What might that look like? Multistate research (the scholarship of diversity, equity and inclusion?), coordinating committee (campus experts?), or other?

- This agenda item was brought forth by the Science and Technology Committee after scanning the multistate research portfolio and identifying a large gap in research activities related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- A coordinating committee could be a mechanism for assembling a group of scholars to collaborate on investigating issues in this area.
- This mechanism could also assist institutional diversity, equity, and inclusion administrators (e.g. Assistant or Associate Deans/Directors) with development of a professional network around this issue area with national representation.
- Research Directors have a liaison on the ECOP Program Action Team related to diversity, equity, and inclusion, but this multistate activity would be distinct from that group.
- There could be two types of representatives on a development committee for this kind of proposal: one would involve administrators and the other would involve faculty currently engaged in research around diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- **A follow-up activity could be to gather a list of Experiment Station diversity, equity, and inclusion administrators and determine a way to poll that group for its interest in participating in this initiative. Rick and David will work with the regional Executive Directors to begin compiling this list.**

Other business

- The DCC would still like to examine diversity, equity, and inclusion components of RFPs: what are our donor agencies doing? How can agInnovation be an influencer in the RFP process at different agencies?

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm Eastern Time