

DCC Meeting Minutes, 1/25/2024 @ 4:00 PM ET

In attendance: Brian Raison, Anna Katharine Mansfield, Jodie Anderson, David Monks, Jamie Larson, Bret Hess, Nina Lyon Bennett, Tala Awada, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz

Meeting Administration

- **The agenda and minutes of December 14, 2023, were both approved by acclamation.**

Review of Call for Nominations (National agInnovation Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Awards)

- The call for nominations and submission portal are ready for distribution to agInnovation.
- Nominations from last year will be considered again this year, and those nominators will have an opportunity to revise their original submissions.
- **The DCC approved the award materials as presented by acclamation. The materials will be posted on the ESCOP website (<https://escop.info/about/>).**

agInnovation (DCC) Webinar: Dr. Jacquelyn Wiersma-Mosley, Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences, Assistant Dean of Bumpers College, University of Arkansas System Division of Agriculture, February 22, 2024

- Dr. Mosley was the individual agInnovation DEI Excellence award recipient in 2023.
- This continues a theme of “lived experience” that started with the November 2023 webinar.
- The webinar will discuss the execution of DEI-related activities at an institution in a state with intense pressure and legislation to mandate backing away from the concept of DEI.
- Measurement of progress and intentionality of activities will be core components of Dr. Mosley’s talk.

Future webinar scheduling. Who’s next and what’s next?

- Tala Awada shared that Jacquelyn Mosley, P.J. Haynie (Haynie Farms LLC, the first black-owned rice mill in the USA), and representatives from veterans’ groups recently held a successful panel discussion at University of Nebraska-Lincoln about issues associated with DEI.
- **Tala is willing to help arrange the next webinar, which may include P.J. Haynie or a theme related to US Veterans’ groups.**
- **For a future webinar we will consider a presentation on ableism / access in higher education (learning ability, physical ability, neurodivergence, etc.), and learning about the accommodations that we can make in the name of accessibility.**
 - Anna Katharine mentioned that she recently attended a webinar by M. Remi Yergeau <https://remiyergeau.com/>, and that speaker suggested this as a resource <https://u.osu.edu/composingaccess/>.

Other business / Open floor

- Rick shared an online Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion legislation tracker (via The Chronicle) <https://www.chronicle.com/article/here-are-the-states-where-lawmakers-are-seeking-to-ban-colleges-dei-efforts>.
- “Courageous Gardening: Equity-Minded Leadership in Higher Education”, an Academic Impressions webinar was recently attended by Rick Rhodes and Nina Lyon Bennett.
 - **The book “Courageous Gardening” is available for purchase (<https://www.academicimpressions.com/product/equity-minded-leadership-higher->**

education/) – the DCC may pursue an opportunity to bulk-buy this book for the committee.

- The book uses strong gardening metaphors and focuses closely on equity-minded *leadership*. The leadership focus makes this a highly appropriate resource for administrators.
- The book includes tools for how to engage “active resisters” in our organization – people who think issues associated with DEI are not happening at our institutions and can not be convinced otherwise.
- The webinar illustrated that there is high interest in diversity, equity, and inclusion among higher education professionals. There is strong commitment to DEI even in the face of state/federal legislation that is pushing back on related programming.
- The webinar was a great opportunity to see what other institutions and units outside college of agriculture are engaged with around DEI.
- **All are invited to participate in a survey from Academic Impressions about “Building a Global DEI community.”** Visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe4j9YDcW8klrrg21ZXgFlc1C7YZFg93PX6jVu_RUjOs10dXQ/viewform to respond.
- Weaponization of Jewish-American trauma / right wing claims on Jewish hate
 - A Cornell trustee who dropped off the university’s board recently parroted language blindly claiming antisemitism and called for the ouster of the university President.

The meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm Eastern Time.