

Diversity Catalyst Committee minutes
September 28, 2023

In attendance: Brian Raison, Douglas LaVergne, David Monks, Alton Thompson, Bret Hess, Shawn Donkin, Shannon Archibeque-Engle, Jamie Larson, Rick Rhodes, David Leibovitz

1. Approval of the agenda.
 - **The agenda was approved by acclamation.**
2. Approval of the [minutes of 8/24/2023](#).
 - **The minutes were approved by acclamation.**
3. A discussion of the DCC Webinars: who and when, roles and responsibilities
 - First webinar speaker suggestion: Jennifer Ballinger, USFS liaison between LGUs and sovereign nations on negotiating research contracts.
 - Mid-November (Nov 15 or 16) could be a target date for holding this webinar. This falls between the APLU Annual Meeting and Thanksgiving
 - **Rick will reach out to Jennifer asking about her availability on Nov 15 or 16 to hold the first DCC webinar.**
4. DCC planning: revised meeting schedule in November and December. (Our regularly scheduled meetings for the DCC fall on Thanksgiving and the Christmas/Hanukkah/Kwanzaa holiday break.)
 - The upcoming DCC webinar will constitute the November engagement for the DCC.
 - **The December DCC meeting will be moved to December 14 due to conflict with the holiday break.**
5. Other old business/other items/open floor
 - The agInnovation awards ceremony was successful. Kyle Gill (on behalf of Cloquet Forestry Center) and Jacquelyn Moseley (Arkansas) attended and spoke about their awards.
 - DCC award materials have been sent to the NIFA Communications office to gain further exposure.
 - Shawn asked: could agInnovation via the DCC pursue changes in language to include calls for DEI components in RFPs at granting agencies?
 - NIFA Civil Rights representatives could be a good fit for a DCC webinar. NIFA reps could speak to what's possible with respect to influencing the RFP process.
 - John Dieffenbacher-Krall (former UMaine, current Executive Director Wabanaki Alliance) implemented a process at UMaine which called for investigators to include DEIA language in Hatch proposals.
 - Bret shared that the Science and Technology Committee is examining multistate projects across the system which have priorities related to DEIA.
 - The STC asked: is it time to form a multistate project directly related to DEI and practitioners across the Experiment Stations? This could address gaps in our multistate portfolio and could assemble a group of experts who may be able to inform agInnovation activities related to DEIA.
 - The agInnovation Executive Directors are working to revise the National Multistate Research Project Guidelines to include an evaluation criterion that calls for activities related to DEI.

- **NRSP-1 Review Committee will be approached by the DCC about changing NIMSS to include ARD as a region in the system.**
- Past agInnovation DEI award winners may be approached to ask for their interest in joining a development committee for this new multistate initiative.

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm Eastern Time.