HELLO!

Welcome to this month’s issue of the ECE DEI Committee Newsletter! The committee was formed in October of 2020 to ensure that our department sustains a welcoming, encouraging, and equitable environment that recognizes, respects, and values differences.

RECENT EVENTS

Friday, December 8, 2023: The ECE DEI Committee sponsored a collection drive for the UR Food Pantry. The Food Pantry is dedicated to challenging the rising student food insecurity on campus by supporting and serving all students and postdocs at UR. The drive took place in conjunction with the ECE Holiday Luncheon. Thanks so much to everyone who made this drive such a success, 87 items were collected! We look forward to supporting the UR Food Pantry yearly!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, January 12, 2024 and Friday, February 9, 2024: LGBTQ+ Safe Space Training will be offered in 2 sessions during normal DEI Committee meeting times (noon in CSB 426B). All ECE students, staff, and faculty are welcome to attend!

Friday, March 8, 2024: ECE DEI Committee meeting, 12:00PM – 1:00PM, CSB 426. The UR student chapter of Out In Stem (oSTEM) will be providing a brief overview of their charter, and we’ll discuss opportunities for collaboration.

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

On Friday, December 1 members of the ECE DEI committee visited the UR Laboratory for Laser Energetics (LLE). The primary goal of the visit was to meet with the LLE DEI team to learn about their initiatives, specifically in the area of STEM-based community outreach. First, LLE staff provided a fascinating tour of their world-class facility. The tour was followed by a great discussion between the two DEI teams, resulting in agreement that ECE will participate in the LLE’s 2023 Broad Exposure to Science and Technology (BEST) Research Program. The BEST program engages underrepresented Rochester Central School District high school students and teachers in various aspects of science and technology. ECE will participate by leading 1–2 days of the summer 2023 programming at East High School. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting collaboration!

Photos by Rebecca Saboswski, LLE, University of Rochester.
LENDING LIBRARY

Did you know that the department has a DEI lending library? There are several books available if you’re interested in learning more about DEI. They are located in CSB 514 (Michele Foster’s office). If you have any suggestions for books that we might add to the collection, please let us know here! New to the library is a subscription to Diversity in Action, a digital and print publication dedicated to supporting and promoting diversity in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math. In fact, profiled in the September/October 2023 issue were URMC PhD student TashJaé Scales and ECE’s own chair, Professor Marvin Doyley!

WE NEED YOU!

There are many ways you can help advance our department DEI goals. Here are just a few:

- GET TO KNOW US: Visit our [web site](#) and take a look around. We share lots of great information and resources.
- JOIN: If you are interested in joining the ECE DEI committee, please reach out to one of our committee co-chairs, Evelyn Goldman ([evelyn.goldman@rochester.edu](mailto:evelyn.goldman@rochester.edu)) or Michael Heilemann ([mheilema@rochester.edu](mailto:mheilema@rochester.edu)) The committee meets on the second Friday of every month from 12:00P – 1:00P in CSB 426.
- ATTEND: The committee works hard on programming interesting events and training (with some great food!), we’d love to have you come learn with us!
- SHARE: We’d love to hear from you. Please share any comments, questions, concerns, or recommendations via our [inquiry form](#).

OBSERVANCES

We’d like to acknowledge the following December / January observances.

December 1: World AIDS Day
December 7 – December 15: Hanukkah
December 8: Bohdi Day
December 10: Human Rights Day
December 21: Yule / Winter Solstice
December 25: Christmas
December 26 – January 1: Kwanzaa
December 31: New Year’s Eve
January 1: New Year’s Day
January 4: World Braille Day
January 7: Orthodox Christmas
January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 16: National Day of Racial Healing
January 17: Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti
January 21: World Religion Day
January 27: Holocaust Remembrance Day

Best wishes from the DEI committee for a Happy New Year! Thank you for supporting our events, we look forward to more great programming in 2024!