

September 12, 2024 DEI Working Group Call

Attendees: Diana Dalbotten, Antoinette Abeyta, Jason McLachlan, Rachel Torres, Cathleen Torres Parisian, John Zobitz, Jody Peters
Regrets: Anna Sjodin

Agenda/Notes:

1. Discussion on current and upcoming proposals and connections across EFI (Jason)
 - a. NSF RCN - focused on ecological forecasting at NEON sites. Thinking about how to make forecasts accessible to more communities. RCN hasn't included partnering so far, but could.
 - b. NSF Geoscience Alliance meeting - increase involvement of Native American students in geoscience and environmental science. Will be held at Duke in spring 2025. The focus will be on environmental justice. We might have a data science/forecasting workshop.
 - c. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation grant - developing partnerships to increase more pathways for inclusive graduate programs. Our work has focused on mentorship, cross institutional partnerships, and educational material development.
 - i. Have a new proposal that will be going on to continue this work.
 - ii. New partners is Timberley Roane at CU Denver runs the [Environmental Stewardship of Indigenous Lands](#) (ESIL) program that provides microcredentials for short courses focused on skills. Microcredentials are targeted at people working with tribes. There are a number of Indigenous students, but there are also non-Indigenous participants who are working with tribes.
 1. ESIL doesn't have a program in data science/quantitative materials so we can help fill that gap
 2. Micro credentials are highly sought after for the technical STEM workforce that may not be through the traditional academic pipeline
 - d. NSF Forecast - provides funding for programs focused for underrepresented groups. Jason has connected with Tony Bethelote at Salish Kootenai College to support the Natural Resources program at SKC and was planning to submit, but just found out that the proposals are due in 2027. So plenty of time to build connections.
 - e. NSF STC - ecological forecasting focused center
 - i. Past STC proposals have had strong DEIJ efforts that we want to continue and if possible expand in this round.
 - ii. Focusing on how do we get the people forecasting more diverse and how to get goals of forecasts more inclusive and representative
 - iii. Improving how well we can forecast natural systems which has to include DEIJ. So thinking of ways we can leverage what is being technically and theoretically to move forward on DEIJ is important.

- iv. Identify the main bottleneck that make forecasts not accessible
 - v. John's idea - use existing connections with local community/Tribal colleges and strengthen the connection to 4-year institutions to have a funnel of students who work locally, finish degree at lead institution, receive training.
 - 1. Students get support and connections to local communities so can build on/enhance existing connections.
 - 2. Augsburg has a lot of pathways connections
 - 3. Know what other programs are doing so we can build on it
 - 4. Recognize that there are cultural, social, and familial obstacles for students going from Tribal/2-year to 4-year
 - a. Want to list the issues and map out what has already been done.
 - 5. Train researchers and future researchers to navigate the space while retaining their identity
 - 6. Build pathways for students to move from one institution to another without having to retake classes and make sure credits count. Set up structures that are supporting that remain in place after the grant.
 - 7. EFI is unique in that it is complex and multi-institutional and how many different connections/permutations there have been over the years
 - 8. Think we have not gotten funded in the past in part because it is a Center grant which implies a central institution/building. Think this is in the minds of the reviewers/program officers so we have to make the case for our network approach.
 - a. Table or chart of things we have worked on together
 - i. Sloan, GA, NativeFEWS. Color code each activity by who has participated
 - 9.
2. Brainstorming activities that align with your interests/ongoing research that overlap with EFI activities or could be incorporated into EFI activities.
- a. Google doc to add ideas to
 - b. Diana
 - i. Diana will connect with John about broader impacts for a colleague of Diana
 - ii. Think about developing workshops that are similar to what Rachel, Sean presented at the AIHEC meeting - focused on undergrad workshops at places like U of Arizona with NFEWS and U of New Mexico, Gallup
 - iii. Would include stipend funding for instructors
 - iv. Limitations - the money, the instructor time
 - 1. We can work on getting money

2. Need to work on how to get instructors and balance time
instructors are doing the research
 3. Consider setting something up as The Carpentries style - have the
resources available, have an instructor training, and
team teaching
- c. Antoinette - had an opportunity to write a grant that UNMG would be a good fit
for, but it was due in 1 month. Decided to put in a grant next year for this call.
- i. Hard part is getting students out to the field (e.g., bird survey, map pinyon
trees) - would need to get vehicle to get here, need insurance, need time
do things outside of their family time.
 - ii. Want to develop something local. Water quality around hauling water.
How much microplastics/leaching occurs? Do community sampling.
Design challenge where students design solutions to improve water
quality. Data logging to create forecasts.
 - iii. Connect with Karletta Chief - they may have something set up that could
be used copied for at UNMG - e.g., mobile units for purifying water
 1. Both projects sound similar. So could be some good connections
 - iv. For forecasting - could potentially connect with the students Rachel works
with at Cal Poly Humboldt with COMPASS students
 - v. For data logging - could connect with Cayelan Carey at VT who has lots
of experience with aquatic data logging
- d. Rachel has been doing a lot of mentoring
- i. Rachel has gotten Carpentries certification - can help with this including
teaching if grad students are interested in this.
 - ii. Jody will put Rachel in touch with EFISA co-chairs and Abby Lewis who
also has experience with teaching R/Data Science