

April 14, 2025 Education Working Group Call

Attendees: Mary, Antoinette, Dave, Jody, Jason, Rachel, John

Agenda/Notes:

1. EFI2025 Conference; <https://bit.ly/efi2025>
 - a. Updates about the working group schedule
 - i. there is now an additional 1hr 15 min on Tuesday for working groups to get together
 - ii. Working groups can connect to Zoom to have others join the meeting, but it is up to the working groups to set up the Zoom link, advertise it, and make the connections to people on their computers
 - b. Compilation of notes from previous Education/DEI working groups EFI University for Everyone
 - c. Draft Agenda (also see this agenda in the Google doc linked above)
 - i. Tues: Welcome - motivation: how did this workshop come together? (Rachel)
 - ii. Tues: Set the stage: Use a metaphor: blind men and the elephant or Wim Wenders Perfect Days character development (Dave)
 1. Brainstorm time to get a sense of where is everyone coming from, what are the student user stories you are thinking about when designing, deploying, supporting educational resources and activities?
 - iii. Tues: Intro to DJP, universal design. (Jason)
 1. Consider EFI resources, success stories, follow up on what comes from step 2 to pick a DJP principle with working group participants using one of the principles to consider actions/activities for EFI University. Does it comply with the principle? What else needs to be done?
 - a. Jason will prepare for this
 - b. See who attends - if it is the core group, then don't need the intro, if new people, then provide the intro
 - iv. Spend 45 minutes on i,ii, and iii
 - v. Tues (30 minutes to set up this idea - perhaps get through part a with what we have)/Thurs (work on part b - how do we get to part a): Discussions - could use format of think pair share or jigsaw (Rachel to help with keeping time; John introduce Google slide)
 1. In small groups or partners - review current resources (point people to [EFI Education Resources](#)) and then focus on sharing **successes from home institution**
 - a. If needed, could also have a list of discussion questions:
 - i. What actions do you want to take to support students in ecological forecasting, or more broadly

- STEM, to advance to the next level of their career?
(whether that means passing a course, graduating,
getting job, or graduate school)
 - ii. What are effective ways to help students feel a
sense of belonging in ecological forecasting,
particularly when it comes to data
science/computer science?
 - iii. How do we continue this work amid funding cuts
and fight the current administration's lack of support
for education?
- b. In the same small groups, brainstorm how to build off
current strategies and how to share with others in the
room, and with others outside of WG
- vi. Take a break halfway through
- vii. Share out - short presentations or flash talks of ideas
- viii. Plan for the future - how to continue the work
 - 1. At the end of the working group want to be ready to highlight the
inspiring, important, and actionable next steps with a final punch
list and be able to articulate that for the EFI community so ideas
don't die and so we have accountability to and from the EFI
community
 - 2. **Have a blog post come out of this.** This lets us provide a recap
and gives accountability
- d. To do: create shared Google slide - assign each group a slide to edit. Include
prompts/sample layouts.
 - i. Here are some resources
 - ii. Here are some challenges
 - iii. Here are the next action steps
 - iv. Give people something to discuss and modify/edit on the fly
 - v. John will set up a draft
- e. Assign who is talking and set loose times
 - i. At end of Tues, day 1 have quick presentations of breakout groups to
wrap up
 - 1. Want to listen to people and put out some ideas for people to
continue to consider and then dive into on Thursday
 - ii. If we run out of time on Tues, take pictures/type up info on big post it
notes into the Google slides so people can see what others are doing
 - 1. Then start Thurs with quick updates
 - iii. Assign a note taker for anything that isn't captured in the Google slides
 - 1. Mary is willing to help take notes to help set things up for a blog
post
 - 2. Antoinette will digitize/summarize notes from working groups
- f. Before dinner on Tuesday - check in on priorities for what to do for Thursday to
set that up.

g. **EFI University for Everyone**

- h. **Short Description:** Participants in this working group will collaboratively redefine and reimagine what a curriculum in ecological forecasting might look like, including the different components of data science, ecology, and community based efforts to create a resource that can be shared with the EFI community.
- i. **Additional Details:** When we talk about 'bottlenecks' in training students for careers in ecological forecasting we are often focusing on the negatives, the reasons why such inequities exist in education or the persistent achievement gaps for underrepresented students. This can include anything from not having enough relevant educational content for culturally diverse students, lack of access to stable internet or technology, geographical isolations and less involvement in social scientific communities, or fewer offerings of quantitative courses at Minority Serving Institutions.

Rather than centering our discussions on a deficit mindset, focusing on what is lacking, we are proposing to create a resource to uplift existing programs and success stories from our partnering MSIs to envision what an inclusive and equitable education in ecological forecasting would look like. Our goal is to envision: if we were to create an EFI university, what would the curriculum look like? Who are the students we invite to participate? What resources would be needed? In this project we want to redefine and reimagine what a curriculum in ecological forecasting might look like, including the different components of data science, ecology, and community based efforts. We will draw from frameworks including Design Justice Principles and Universal Design for Learning. This EFI University would aim to be accessible, inclusive, and equitable to everyone.

The working group will include brief intros and flashtalks to set the context of where we are currently, followed by small group discussions to share ideas and resources. We aim to produce a framework for inclusive curriculum, including existing resources and materials, that will support cross-institutional collaborations to implement the curriculum and will lay the groundwork for grants to support growing and implementing activities.

1. ***Follow up on this task as we have time to do so - not necessarily on this call:***

Developing scaffolding material to help people in the EFI community know what code is available in the [EFI GitHub repo](#)

- a. Project - can add a description that is more useful for the EFI project
- b. Not sure if there is an overall ReadMe

- c. Could make repo that is a guide to resources
- d. It is possible to do a collection of code repos in Zenodo - could do one bin in Zenodo to see all the code that is published from EFI.
 - i. Community in Zenodo
 - ii. Provide benchmarks of the code
- e. GitHub repository option
 - i. <https://docs.github.com/en/organizations/collaborating-with-groups-in-organizations/customizing-your-organizations-profile>

Other resources

- 2. Padlet with list of the working group activities the group had been thinking about in 2023. Jody still needs to update it to add what has been done. She has updated to add some color coding for activities in progress and those that have been worked on.
 - i. <https://padlet.com/jmurray716/brainstorming-efi-education-wg-activities-p78o4h18zdk397nk>