May 12, 2025 Education Working Group Call

Attendees: Rachel Torres, John Zobitz, Antoinette Abeyta, Alyssa Willson, Jody Peters, Jason McLachlan
Regrets: Mary Lofton

Agenda/Notes:

1. Poll for calls for June-August or use the same schedule - Mondays at 1pm US ET?
    a. Continue with the calls on this schedule
    b. For summer merge DEI/EDU calls and then have check in about bifurcation in starting in August
    c. Book club - will read Data Feminism. Will promote it at the EFI Confrence and in newsletter to go out at the beginning of June to get interest
        i. John to lead, Antoinette to help co-lead
        ii. Audiobook is available on Hoopla so should be free for most people!
        iii. Link online is available freely. The physical book doesn't give the interactions, so the online version is nice to see.

2. Alyssa is prsenting a poster on the education paper from a few years ago.
    a. Overview of the paper and what has happened since then.
    b. She has a really great start to the poster!

3. EFI2025 Conference; https://bit.ly/efi2025
    a. Compilation of notes from previous Education/DEI working groups EFI University for Everyone
    b. Folder to put working group materials in EFI 2025 Conference_EFI University of Everyone WG
    c. Check with John about slide deck scaffolding to guide discussion time for the working group
        i. Template slide is made!
        ii. Have 3-5 participants in each group working on a slide
        iii. Have 1 link to the slide and have multiple copies of the same slide template
        iv. Before jumping to the slide - should we brainstorm different university aspects?
            1. Think people will have some identified, but would be good to have some available in our pocket to provide
            2. Want to provide guidance, but don't want to put our thumb on it.
            3. Want to have some examples but let it go organically
        v. Potential University Aspects
            1. What would a curriculum look like
            2. Student support
            3. Facilities

4. Where is the line between University and Community - ebb and flow between university community and broader local/regional/national community
   a. Student life and feeling of fitting in. How do we make sure it is a community for everyone, non-traditional students, parents
   b. Imposter syndrome, culture shock
5. Recruitment, admissions, and retention
6. Culture of academia
7. How do we define access? Assessment would be what we want our participants to take away from engaging.

vi. Consider for the blog post - perhaps include the generated slides in the blogpost (and let people participating in the working group know that we may do so)

Mary Lofton - note taker (not available on Tuesday); Antoinette - will digitize/summarize notes from working groups;

Be flexible on the schedule and format depending on if it is the core Education/DEI working group or if there are new people who are participating in the working group.

1. There are 11 people who ranked the working group as their top choice
   a. Leah Johnson, Mary Lofton, John Zobitz, Dave Klinges, Rachel Torres, Jody Peters, Alyssa Willson, Antoinette Abeyta, Jason McLachlan, Diana Dalbotten, Mary Allred (Nievita sends her regrets, she had to get an earlier flight otherwise she couldn't leave until Friday)

Draft Agenda Details (you can also find the draft agenda here EFI University for Everyone**)**
Tuesday 4:45-6pm before dinner (spend 45 minutes on 1-3; then take 30 minutes on 4)
    Encourage people to take notes and designate note takers

1. Give time for people to introduce themselves - either in Rachel or Dave's session
2. Rachel Torres: Welcome - motivation: how did this working group come together?
3. Dave Klinges: Set the stage: Use a metaphor: blind men and the elephant or Wim Wenders Perfect Days character development (could be 5 minutes unless we allocate brainstorming - is there active things that could take place during this portion of the schedule?)
   i. 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?
      1. This could be a place for introductions. Let people share stories, but don't require them come up with stories
      2. Dave will think about this ice breaker that provides an opt-out

3. Could do raise your hand if you are coming from MSI, small school, R1, etc - use something like this
4. Also doesn't have to be identity oriented.
5. What are some issues you feel personally should be included
   ii. Be mindful that introductions take time and they set the tone
4. Jason McLachlan: Intro to DJP, universal design. (think this may take 15 minutes)
   a. 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?
5. Get the group started on discussing current resources and share successes from their home institution in the think/pair/share format (continue this on Thursday and dive in further)
   a. John will provide a slide template for the think/pair/share format that people can add notes to

Organizing committee - get together for a quick debrief before dinner and prep for Thursday

Thursday 9-11:40am (with debrief/wrap up from 11:40-noon)
6. Discussions (continued) - think pair share or jigsaw
   a. In small groups or partners - review current resources list or share successes from home institution. Can point to [EFI Education Resources](#) but focus on shared successes to learn new approaches and what has worked
      i. If needed, could also have a list of discussion questions:
         1. 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)
         2. What are effective ways to help students feel a sense of belonging in ecological forecasting, particularly when it comes to data science/computer science?
         3. How do we continue this work amid funding cuts and fight the current administration's lack of support for education?
            a. Could point to resources previously compiled by Rachel for the DEI working group call 2024-11-14 Diversity Working Group Call
   b. In the same small groups, brainstorm how to build off current strategies and how to share to others in the room, and to others outside of WG
7. Take a break halfway through
8. Share out - short presentations or flash talks of ideas
9. Plan for the future - how to continue the work
   a. 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

b. **Outcome: Create a blog post summarizing and pointing forward.** This lets us provide a recap and provides accountability from the EFI community

d. EFI University for Everyone

e. **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.

f. **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