



ECE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Newsletter

March 2024

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

THURSDAY, February 29, 2024: In honor of Black History Month (February) and Women's History Month (March), the ECE DEI committee held a screening of the 2017 film *Hidden Figures*, the story of three female African American mathematicians who served a vital role at NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Food from local African restaurants was served along with freshly popped popcorn. It was a great turnout, thanks to all who participated! More pics on the next page!



UPCOMING EVENTS

SUMMER 2024: ECE will participate in the LLE's 2024 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 2024 programming at East High School. Any faculty members, post-doctoral associates, or graduate students interested in participating should reach out to Tre DiPassio (jdipass2@ur.rochester.edu) or Michael Heilemann (mheilema@rochester.edu). More info to follow!

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT



ECE student Velma Ayona '24 recently visited Micron Technology's state of the art semiconductor fabrication facility in Boise, Idaho as part of the [Education Group for Diversification and Growth in Engineering \(EDGE\) Scholars program](#). Velma shared the following thoughts about her experience: "As someone interested in the semiconductor industry and planning to pursue a postgraduate degree in IC Design, this felt like exactly what I needed before making the big decision. The talk with the R&D team about their efforts and work on next generation

chips assured me that this was exactly what I wanted to do. Generally, it felt like the trip was assuring me that I made the right choice. I have always wanted to find a community of enthusiasts in the semiconductor industry, and I feel like the EDGE Scholars program has finally given me that opportunity.” Sounds like a terrific experience! UR is one of the founding members of the EDGE Consortium, which brings together students and leaders in academia to double the number of women and historically marginalized groups in semiconductor related jobs. Students interested in becoming an EDGE scholar can sign up [here](#).

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 great of 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) or Michael Heilemann (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 March / April observances.

- March 1-31: Women’s History Month
- March 11-April 9: Ramadan
- March 19: Ostara/Spring Equinox
- March 20: Naw Ruz
- March 24: Purim
- March 25: Holi
- March 31: Easter Sunday

April 8: [Total Solar Eclipse](#)

April 8-13: Graduate Student Appreciation Week

April 10: Eid al-Fitr

April 13: Vaisakhi

April 13-15: South and Southeast Asian New Year

April 19-May1: Ridvan

April 22-30: Passover

MORE PICS FROM OUR “HIDDEN FIGURES” EVENT!

