



## ECE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Newsletter

December 2023

### 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 Doyle!

**On Campus** | FOCUSED ON DIVERSIFYING STEM STUDENT POPULATIONS

### Scientists and Physicians of the Future

University of Rochester medical and engineering schools offer unique graduate programs BY MICHELLE LEMELUK

**A LEADING RESEARCH** institution, the University of Rochester is at the forefront of dynamic graduate and Ph.D. programs full of innovation and collaboration. Its mission: to learn, discover, heal, create — and make the world ever better. UR students are doing just that. Located in the fourth-largest urban area in the state of New York, UR prides itself on being a leader in learning. Creating cutting-edge programs geared at students with a passion for research and STEM, UR provides the skills needed to succeed from the classroom to a full-time career.

Dr. Marvin Doyle, UR

professor and chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, says the school is ahead of the curve when it comes to developing medical and engineering courses. In fact, the Musical Acoustics and Signal Processing and the Science in Diagnostic Imaging programs are the first of their kind in the United States. UR is also working to bring back programs in manufacturing to leverage the country's national need for more jobs in the field.

"Collaborating with other disciplines is critical to the future of tech," says Doyle. "When clinicians and engineers work together, they realize how transferable their skills are and enhance their strengths." UR's graduate programs have become popular for their smaller class sizes, which allow professors to work more closely with students. Doyle says UR's faculty consists of award-winning scholars and inventors, in addition to industry leaders

and fellows. Alumni relations are also strong, which helps in job placement and mentorship opportunities.

One of the standouts of UR is that it allows every student to grow into their potential, achieved in part by offsetting the cost of its graduate programs. For example, its Ph.D. program not only offers a stipend but health insurance as well, which helps students focus solely on their research goals. Ranked #36 in U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges (National Universities) and a leading R1 institution, UR is home to a first-class medical center and has 60 research centers within its Arts, Sciences and Engineering school. The university has received millions of dollars in grants from the National Institutes of Health, Department of Defense and National Science Institute. All graduate courses are held in person as the research being conducted is very "hands-on."

"With the funds we receive, we have been able to offer our students state-of-the-art equipment and labs to perform their cutting-edge research to make a difference in today's world," says Doyle. "Staying 'novel' and partnering with companies like Facebook, Apple, Tesla and

Qualcomm, as well as nonprofit and government agencies, is an important part of UR's focus. Many students who attend UR want to strengthen their current skill sets, while others are working to expand or further their careers.

Building diversity throughout University of Rochester's medical and engineering programs is immensely important to Doyle and one of his primary goals. He says it's his "life's mission to diversity STEM for underrepresented students in the space."

**University of Rochester**

Campus Location: Rochester, New York  
 Total Student Enrollment: 20,000 graduate students in STEM programs between the School of Arts, Science and Engineering and the School of Medicine & Dentistry  
 Types of Degrees Offered: S.P.H.D., 27 Master's, 1 post-bac, 5 summer REUs all within biological, biomedical, health sciences and engineering fields  
 Ways to Matriculate: Full-time, part-time, online options vary by program  
 Website: [diversityinaction.urmc.edu](http://diversityinaction.urmc.edu)

## 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](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!*