



ECE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Newsletter

December 2024

Volume 2, Issue 3

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

WEDNESDAY, December 11, 2024: The ECE holiday luncheon featured a multi-cultural food spread with offerings from India House, Aladdin's, and Szechuan Opera. The DEI committee will continue choosing these types of inclusive food options for future holiday luncheons. The Committee also kicked off the second annual collection drive for the [UR Food Pantry](#) at the luncheon. The Food Pantry is dedicated to challenging the rising student food insecurity on campus by supporting and serving all students and postdocs at UR. Thanks so much to everyone who made this drive a success, 51 items were collected! Many thanks to the UR chapter of Tau Beta Pi for co-sponsoring this food drive. We look forward to supporting the UR Food Pantry yearly!

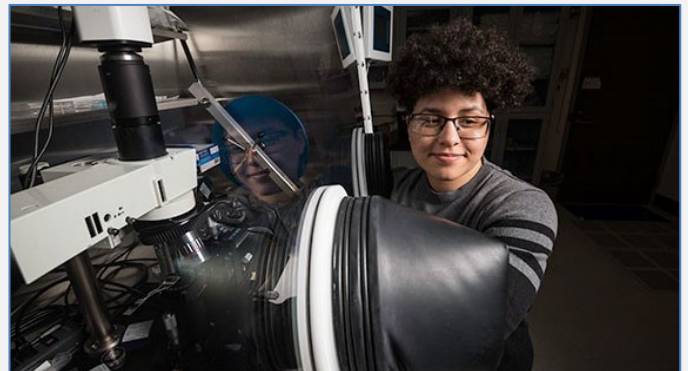


UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, February 7, 2024: ECE DEI Committee meeting, 12:00PM – 1:00PM, CSB 426.

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

THE ECE department is very proud to have been ranked in the top 10 nationally on the *Washington Monthly* list of America's Best Colleges for Women in STEM. Using data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the publication compared the gender distribution of every STEM program at 1,027 U.S. colleges and universities, then ranked the 20 undergraduate programs with the highest and lowest percentage of recent graduates who are female in 10 popular STEM fields. Our faculty, staff, students, and DEI committee are pleased that efforts towards improving representation are paying off! [View the full lists on the Washington Monthly website.](#)

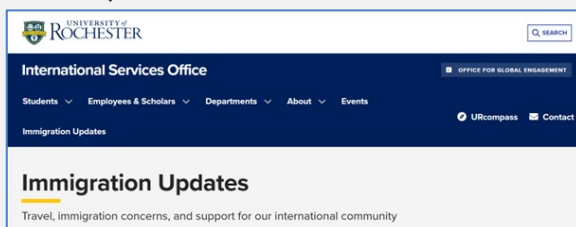


Photos by J. Adam Fenster, University of Rochester.

TRAVEL/IMMIGRATION SUPPORT

THE International Services Office (ISO), along with the Office for Global Engagement, will closely monitor administrative changes made by the new US presidential administration and will keep members of the community updated through its [new web page](#), emails, and newsletter. Keep in mind the following:

- **Your status:** Make sure that you maintain your legal immigration status. If you have questions about your status, [contact your immigration advisor](#).
- **Avoid misinformation:** Social media platforms, rumors, and some news outlets may share information that is speculative, rather than official. When in doubt, [contact your immigration advisor](#), as they are ready to assist you with accurate information.
- **Legislative and regulatory changes:** Any legislative changes or new executive orders related to immigration will be updated on the ISO website. **Travel:** If you plan to travel outside of the US during the winter holiday, [review ISO's travel guidelines and recommendations](#). ISO does not anticipate re-entry requirements to the US to change before January 20, 2025, when the new administration takes office. ISO strongly encourages you to return to the US before that time. Additionally, if you are an employee with legal permanent resident status or pending naturalization, you should also consider the re-entry guidance provided and plan to return to the US before January 20, 2025. Employees with pending legal permanent resident applications should carefully weigh all the risks and consult with their immigration attorneys before making any travel plans. Visa decisions and entry to the US are subject to the discretion of the US Consular Officers and Border Protection. Ensure that you have properly signed your I-20 and your passport and that you have an unexpired visa sticker. Remember to carry these documents with you. Do not pack them in your checked baggage. Click on the image below for more info.



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 first 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](#).

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 2025!

OBSERVANCES

We'd like to acknowledge the following December / January observances.

- December 1: World AIDS Day
- December 8: Bohdi Day
- December 10: Human Rights Day
- December 21: Yule / Winter Solstice
- December 25: Christmas
- December 26 – January 1: Kwanzaa
- December 26 – January 2: Hanukkah
- December 31: New Year's Eve
- January 1: New Year's Day
- January 6: Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti
- January 7: Orthodox Christmas
- January 14: Orthodox New Year
- January 19: World Religion Day
- January 20: Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 21: National Day of Racial Healing
- January 27: Holocaust Remembrance Day
- January 29: Lunar New Year