



ECE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Newsletter

April 2025

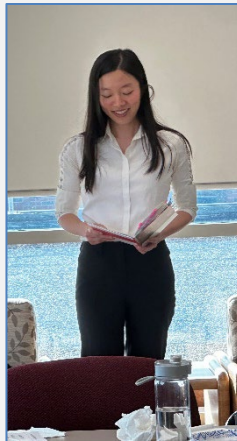
Volume 2, Issue 6

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, March 27, 2025:

Thanks to all who came out to our Special Edition Tidbit Thursday celebrating Women's History month, featuring ECE PhD student Stella Wong! Stella read some of her published poetry about the contributions of female electronic musicians, providing us with interesting backstories for each. The poetry, tea, and Mochinut donuts were enjoyed by all!



UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, April 23 – Friday, April 25, 2025: The International Services Office (ISO) is hosting four virtual town halls this week for University community members to hear about US immigration topics, international travel, and available resources. Immigration lawyers and campus partners will join ISO to share insights and answer questions. To join

a town hall, you must register via the links below for each one using your official University email. [You may submit anonymous questions in advance](#) and ask questions anonymously during the town hall.

- [Hiring departments and faculty sponsors](#), **Wednesday, April 23, 10 a.m.**
- [Students](#), **Wednesday, April 23, noon.**
- [Faculty, staff, scholars, and researchers \(domestic traveling J, H\)](#), **Thursday, April 24, noon.**
- [Graduate students](#), **Friday, April 25, 3 p.m.**

FRIDAY, May 2, 2025: ECE DEI Committee meeting, 12:00PM – 1:00PM, CSB 426.

SUMMER 2025: ECE will once again participate in the [LLE's 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 in the summer 2025. Any faculty members, post-doctoral associates, or graduate students interested in participating should reach out Michael Heilemann, more information to follow (mheilema@rochester.edu).

DIVERSITY SPOTLIGHT

MEMBERS of UR's [chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers \(NSBE\)](#) attended the NSBE Annual Convention in Chicago in March. Among the 15 UR attendees were ECE students Paige Adewakun '27 and Maria-Ines Aholoukpe '28. Paige had this to share: "I attended the NSBE conference in Chicago, where I went to the career fair and networked with professionals and students from all over the country. I also took part in workshops that helped me learn and grow both personally and

professionally.” Paige also attended Management Leadership for Tomorrow’s (MLT) Tech Trek 2025: “As part of the MLT Tech Trek career prep program, I had the chance to visit LinkedIn headquarters and connect with professionals in the field. It was a great opportunity to learn, ask questions, and build meaningful connections.” Thanks for sharing your experiences, Paige!



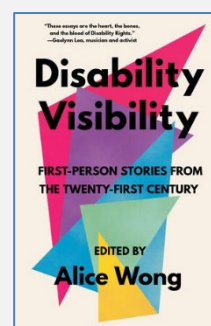
CONGRATULATIONS to ECE student Nyasha Gwaza '26 for receiving a [Projects for Peace](#) grant. Projects for Peace is a global program that encourages young adults around the world to develop innovative, community-centered responses to the world’s most pressing issues. Nyasha will spend May through August in Gwanda, Zimbabwe for a project titled “Sewing Peace” at a local high school that she attended. Nyasha shared some thoughts with us. **How did you come to apply for this fellowship?** “I was inspired by Kapabwe Chalwe '20, he is a previous recipient of the grant and an ECE graduate. He told me about how they set up a greenhouse in Tanzania to help previously abused girls living at a shelter earn an income. I was inspired, and I knew my community could really use this grant. I had just gone home, and I saw the severe land degradation and heard concerns about the increasing number of



high school dropouts going for gold panning.” **What does it mean to you to be able to spend the summer on such a meaningful service project?** “It is exciting. Community service is at the heart of everything I do, and this time I get to do it in my own hometown! I am excited about the long-term impact of this project in rebuilding my community; in encouraging youths to earn a living through sustainable means and in restoring our environment that has suffered from the effects of these illegal mining activities” Thanks so much, Nyasha!

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. **If you have any suggestions for books that we might add to the collection, please let us know [here](#)!** We’d



like to highlight a new book recently added to our collection, *Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century* by Alice Wong. This anthology gives a glimpse into the rich complexity of the disabled experience, highlighting the passions, talents, and everyday lives of this community.

OBSERVANCES

We’d like to acknowledge the following April/May observances.

April 7-12: [Graduate Student Appreciation Week](#)

April 13-15: South and Southeast Asian New Year

April 12-20: Passover

April 14: Vaisakhi

April 18: Good Friday

April 20: Easter

April 20-May 2: Ridvan

May 1: Beltane

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

May 11: Mother’s Day

May 12: Buddha’s Birthday

May 16-18: [UR Commencement Weekend](#)

May 26: Memorial Day