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Hello from your [Lehigh Materials Science and Engineering \(MSE\) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Committee](#)! We share a newsletter throughout the academic year to highlight DEI-related events, resources, and activities in our department, Lehigh community, and beyond.

Welcome back, everyone! Last semester, the inaugural DEI Champion Awards were presented at our annual spring department picnic. Our committee established these awards, which includes \$200 per award, to be given to one undergraduate and one graduate student who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to and/or advanced DEI practices within our MSE department. Please join us in congratulating Casey Dolan and Dr. John Tolbert and thanking them for their positive impact.



Casey (left photo) and John (right photo) receiving their DEI Champion Awards from our MSE department chair Prof. Ricardo Castro at our annual spring picnic!

This month, our entire department will be participating in anti-racist training as part of our department seminar series. The [EVERFI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion online training course](#) is provided by the Office of Multicultural Affairs and the Health Advancement and Prevention Strategies office at Lehigh. This individual online training is in conjunction with an in-person workshop held later this September.

The MSE DEI committee will also be continuing our work providing guidance for an equity audit in collaboration with the MSE department chair Prof. Ricardo Castro. This guidance will help identify opportunities to re-distribute service for faculty, staff, and students to improve overall operations. Our committee members will be reaching out to different groups across the department to collect information so please keep an eye out for an email or message from us! If you have any questions, please contact mse-dei-committee-list@lehigh.edu and/or feel free to reach out to our committee members for more information.

Sincerely,
The MSE DEI Committee

Lesley Chow (Faculty), pronouns: she, her, hers
Itzel Esparza (Undergraduate Student), pronouns: she, her, hers
Joel Garcia Jr. (Graduate Student), pronouns: he, him, his
Laura Moyer (Staff), pronouns: she, her, hers
Siddha Pimputkar (Faculty), pronouns: he, him, his
*Nicholas Strandwitz (Faculty), pronouns: he, him, his (*currently on sabbatical in Fall 2023)*
Jonathan Valenzuela (Graduate Student), pronouns: he, him, his



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