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

We are kicking off the Spring 2024 semester recognizing Jonny Valenzuela (he/him//his) who cycled off our MSE DEI committee last semester. We are very grateful for his significant contributions and commitment as the graduate student representative over the past two years. Thank you, Jonny!



Jonathan Valenzuela (he/him/his)

The MSE DEI Committee has been assisting the MSE Chair, Ricardo Castro, in performing an equity audit of workloads across faculty, staff, and students in the department.

Faculty and Staff: A survey was sent to faculty and staff to obtain insight on typical time investments for a range of service/outreach activities across campus. With an almost 100% feedback rate (thank you!), this information will now help guide future service requests by the chair to ensure an equitable load is maintained. Additionally, this information will fold into the larger scale equity audit being performed by the department that includes teaching and research loads as well.

Graduate Students: The MSE graduate representatives sent a survey in January to learn about time commitments and workloads and are currently reviewing the responses. The graduate reps will also be reaching out to specific individuals in March seeking more information about their service contributions to the MSE department, Lehigh University, and any organizations outside our campus. This information will also provide opportunities for the department to thank our student body for their volunteer efforts.

Undergraduate Students: The MSE undergraduate representative is sending a short survey to our MSE undergraduate students about their service participation in the department, college, and beyond. The MSE DEI Committee will use this data in order to highlight these contributions that so often go unnoticed.

The MSE DEI Committee established two DEI Champion Awards in 2022, and our inaugural awards were presented in Spring 2023 to our very own Casey Dolan and recent PhD graduate Dr. John Tolbert. These awards include \$200 and are given to one undergraduate student and one graduate student who have demonstrated an exceptional commitment to and/or advanced DEI practices within the MSE department. We are soliciting nominations for these two awards via submission of [this form](#) by **Monday, March 4, 2024**. All members of the MSE department (faculty, postdocs, research scientists, staff, students) may submit a nomination. Self-nominations are also welcome.

Sincerely,
The MSE DEI Committee

Lesley Chow (Faculty), pronouns: she, her, hers
Casey Dolan (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
Tenzin Sherpa (Graduate Student), pronouns: she, her, hers
Nicholas Strandwitz (Faculty), pronouns: he, him, his

Alternate link to DEI Champion Nomination Form:
<https://forms.gle/TPivWwuuz42wkkCo6>

