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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 delighted to welcome Tenzin Sherpa (she/her/hers) as the newest graduate student representative on our committee! We asked Tenzin to tell us about herself and why she wanted to join the MSE DEI committee:



Tenzin Sherpa (she/her/hers)

“My name is Tenzin Sherpa (she/her/hers), and I'm a 1st year PhD student in MSE working on crystal growth of ultra wide bandgap semiconductors. During my time at Lehigh University over the past few months, the DEI committee's work to create a more equitable and inclusive committee has been inspiring. I'm excited to have a chance to contribute to this goal and to offer my unique perspective as an underrepresented minority.”

Last month, our MSE department participated in a [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion online training course](#) provided by the [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#) and the [Health Advancement and Prevention Strategies Office](#) at Lehigh. We had 60% of our department, including faculty, staff, postdocs, graduate students, and undergraduate students, complete this training! The success and positive feedback we have received about this training and the Fall 2023 department seminar by [Dr. Robert Robinson](#), Interim Director of the [Office of Multicultural Affairs](#), illustrates the impact of integrating DEI into our department culture. These activities have motivated us to continue including DEI-focused talks in our department-wide seminar series and develop sustainable ways to engage our department. Our next steps include developing specific plans to help faculty integrate DEI-related content (i.e., [DEI Vignettes](#)) into core courses in our MSE curriculum.

Our undergraduate student representative Casey Dolan sent out a survey to her peers in the MSE department asking them about their contributions to the MSE department. Out of those who responded, we learned that many of our undergraduate students contribute to department and university activities. For example, our students are actively involved in Lehigh programs like [Summer Engineering Institute \(SEI\)](#), [Microscopy School](#), and [CHOICES](#) as well as university events related to orientation and recruitment. (If you are interested in getting involved, you can apply to participate in the SEI Program via this link: <https://engineering.lehigh.edu/about/engineering-outreach/sei/employment>.)

Our graduate student representatives Joel Garcia and Tenzin Sherpa reached out to select individuals to learn more about their service activities and highlight their experiences and accomplishments. We will be sharing more in future newsletters about their contributions to the department so stay tuned!

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



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