

ChBE ARDEI Quarterly Update for Fall 2021

Summary: This past fall of 2021, our committee made huge strides in development of ARDEI curricula for both undergraduate and graduate students. We also started planning a DEI summer symposium thanks to funding from Dow and are planning our second annual Contextualizing Engineering seminar. Read on for more specific updates and stay tuned for new developments coming this quarter!

Department Climate Survey: The Climate Survey data was reviewed and an executive summary was created to share the major takeaways from the survey results, highlighting the various needs of our department community. The ARDEI Committee has started several initiatives to address some of the challenges pointed out in the survey, and the committee can always use extra hands to make sure progress is made in these areas. The executive summary and data are now ready to be shared with the department. A message will go out to the department this Winter Quarter about how to access the Climate Survey results.

ARDEI Annual Seminar Series: Following the success of the 2021 Inaugural Contextualizing Engineering Seminar in Spring 2021, we began planning for the 2022 seminar which will take place in Spring 2022. We have confirmed our speaker and can't wait to share more with the whole department. Expect more updates soon!

Undergraduate ARDEI Resources and Course Development: Over the summer, workshops were held to help faculty gain confidence and resources for including topics of anti-racism and social justice in the classroom. The focus of the workshop was to develop homework problems that could easily be deployed in the current chemical engineering curriculum. The motivation for and the content of the workshops was shared with the larger chemical engineering education audience at the annual AIChE meeting in November. Four faculty piloted their homework problems in class this Fall and collected feedback for future improvement.

Graduate ARDEI Course Development: We developed a basic syllabus for a first-year graduate course based on topics in ARDEI. This fall, we were able to perform a trial run in the Professional Development class required for first-year ChBE graduate students. Survey results indicate positive learning experiences and valuable feedback on how to create a more comfortable environment in a longer course. Our goal is to implement a full course soon after developing a full course schedule and activities. We will be writing a formal proposal for the course and determining proper training for instructors as well.

C3S: This summer and fall, we applied for and then received funding from Dow Chemical Company to sponsor our **Context, Connections, and Community Symposium (C3S)**, a day-long career- and networking-oriented event geared towards graduate students and postdocs, designed to feature diverse identities in chemical engineering, materials science, and chemistry. The goal of this symposium is to highlight the career accomplishments and research done by those from diverse, under represented backgrounds. The event will include invited speakers, a poster session for students and postdocs with cash prizes, and a networking luncheon. We will spend the next two quarters planning this event, to be put on in summer of 2022.

If you are interested in joining our efforts, please email chbe_ardei@northwestern.edu.