

ChBE ARDEI Quarterly Update for Winter 2022

Summary: This quarter we really saw a lot of the ARDEI efforts culminate into some lasting institutional changes as we integrate DEI curricula into our department's pedagogy as well as continue to implement annual symposia and seminars to bring ARDEI topics to the forefront of our work. We are very excited to share our most recent updates and hope to hear from our community with any thoughts/comments/questions.

Undergraduate ARDEI Resources and Course Development: Over the Winter 2022 quarter, we again held the workshop to help additional 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. Additionally, two more faculty piloted their homework problems in class this Winter and collected feedback for future improvement. We applied for and received IRB approval to formally survey students and faculty and interview faculty on their engagement with or development of these questions. We are currently writing up a manuscript to share the motivation for and the content of the workshops as well as the survey results from the students who engaged with the question and faculty who engaged with the workshop.

Graduate ARDEI Course Development: The ARDEI graduate course was voted on and approved by faculty in Winter 2022, a major accomplishment! The course will now be integrated into the existing Professional Development series and added to PhD and Master's curriculum requirements. Incoming graduate students will take the new Professional Development course with ARDEI classes in two parts, during the fall quarters of their first and second years. Existing Professional Development classes will be split into these quarters as well based on their relevance to graduate students at the given time. We are now developing the content for the ARDEI classes based on the syllabus and objectives we proposed. We are also setting training requirements for the faculty member and TA that will be teaching the course to ensure the proper skills are used to discuss ARDEI topics respectfully and productively.

C3S: Having secured funding in fall quarter to host our Context, Connections, and Community Symposium (C3S) from Dow Chemical Company, we spent this quarter laying the groundwork for planning this day-long career- and networking-oriented event. This quarter, we identified potential spaces for hosting the event, and confirmed our two keynote speakers, one from industry and one from academia, who will give the main talks at the event. We also distributed an interest survey to estimate attendance. In this upcoming quarter, we will announce the exact date of the event, solicit and confirm abstracts for posters and talks, and invite local company representatives to attend.

Accessibility/Mental Health: During our first quarter of activity, we identified a variety of different initiatives related to accessibility, ableism, and mental health. We worked

to compile and annotate mental health resources and course accessibility best practices for the community, which will be shared in the coming months. We also initiated conversations regarding the graduate student experience, such as the advisor selection process.

Department ARDEI Website: The website was updated to include upcoming events in the sidebar, and a new ARDEI section was added to the department's "News and Events" tab to ensure greater visibility of ARDEI related events. We also gained editing capabilities to the website, so small changes or additions can be made more quickly in the future. We are currently working on implementing a new section of the website which will present a well-organized list of helpful resources for many aspects of graduate student life in our department.

Department Climate Survey: The executive summary of the Climate Survey data was shared with the entire ChBE Department community to communicate the major takeaways from the survey results, highlighting the various needs of our department community. The ARDEI Committee continues to work on several initiatives to address some of the challenges pointed out in the survey.

ARDEI Annual Seminar Series: We are excited to host our second annual Contextualizing Engineering Seminar this spring in April! We will host Dr. Sindia Rivera-Jiménez from the University of Florida. If you are interested in helping us select our speaker next year and/or being a part of the planning, feel free to email us!

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