Introducing the GI Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee

The GI Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is a collection of GI graduate students, staff and faculty who are working to create a more diverse, equitable and inclusive GI community. We recognize that diversity and inclusion foster better science\textsuperscript{1,2}. Our goal is to help guide and inform the GI on inclusivity actions and measures and to identify where the GI can improve its own aspects of diversity, equity and inclusion.

To that end, we are educating ourselves about the many facets of diversity, with the understanding that it is a complex and dynamic process that requires our persistence, rigor and humility. We make decisions by consensus and consult with people across the UAF system.

The GI DEI Committee is seeking feedback and participation from the entire GI. We meet bi-weekly on Wednesdays, with every other meeting open to interested members of the GI. Interested parties can register for the meeting here or contact the committee at uaf-gi-dei@alaska.edu for more information.

To date, the committee has researched or considered:

- The potential effect of Executive Order 13590 on GI researchers (now revoked)
- Participation in equity seminars specific to the geosciences
- An Indigenous culture requirement for graduate students
- Supporting students who become pregnant
- Developing a statement for the GI regarding DEI
- Researching and connecting with other efforts currently underway at UAF (and within the UA system when relevant)

Committee members as of February 1, 2021:

\begin{itemize}
  \item Jordan Bishop
  \item Kelly Eagan
  \item Cassandra Ellis
  \item Jessica Larsen
  \item Megan McGinty
  \item Santosh Panda
  \item Anika Pinzer
  \item Liam Toney
  \item Chris Waigl
\end{itemize}

\textsuperscript{1} \url{https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-018-07415-9}
\textsuperscript{2} \url{https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/how-diversity-makes-us-smarter/}