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WHOI Diversity Committee: Overview

Welcome! Have you ever considered why diversity is important to you, your community, your profession?

As a world class institution of scientific research and education we recognize that diversity and learning are fundamentally linked to our growth, prosperity and longevity in an increasingly global enterprise. The most assured means to attain the benefits of diverse ideas is to draw from a pool of diverse people whose experiences, concepts and realities are varied from those prescribed to by any single homogeneous group. By striving to access, utilize and learn from every member of the human race we hope to create a wholly enriching and educational workplace.

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Related Files

- » Bridge Lecture Series Pilot Program
- » Memorandum of Understanding
- » Roadmap to Diversity
- » Charge

This website is a resource for finding information about the community, cultural and Institutional activities available through the WHOI Diversity Committee and within the Woods Hole/Falmouth area.

Since 2004, the Woods Hole Diversity Initiative has been working to encourage the principle that diversity is a strength needing development in our community. John Bullard, the President of the Sea Education Association, summarized the importance of diversity with the following statement: “Homogenization seems to be part of human nature, but it limits our potential. Because we do not naturally move towards a more diverse state, it requires a conscious effort on our part to promote diversity.”The Memorandum of Understanding signed by the six major scientific and educational institutions of Woods Hole (the Marine Biological Laboratory, the Northeast Fisheries Science Center Woods Hole Laboratory, Sea Education Association, the United States Geological Survey-Woods Hole, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and the Woods Hole Research Center) states that these institutions will work jointly to create “Pathways to Opportunity.”These pathways will be designed to attract people of underrepresented groups to Woods Hole by showcasing opportunities in the scientific and educational community from primary education through higher education, post graduate work, research and lifetime careers.The WHOI Diversity Committee is a direct result of their efforts.

As a committee we are comprised of representative members from numerous departments and disciplines throughout the institution. We call upon our various backgrounds, experiences and ideas to discuss the meaning, effects and benefits of diversity to the growth of our institution. We aim to address the importance of diversity in science while broadening participation in Science and Engineering careers from individuals in underrepresented groups.

We encourage involvement of employees, students, post docs and the public as we aim to raise awareness of the richness that diversity can bring our community.

See the Woods Hole Diversity Advisory Committee (WHDAC) website for more information: http://www.woodsholediversity.org/

Charge

In response to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) put forth by the Woods Hole Scientific Community Diversity Initiative and under the recommendation of the WHDAC, the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution Diversity Committee will initiate and implement an open forum for discussion of issues concerning diversity within its institution. Remaining consistent with the definition in the 2004 MOU, diversity is defined here as any race, ethnicity, religion, creed, gender, age, national origin, citizenship status, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socio-economic status, or veteran status, which is underrepresented in science. The primary charge of the WHOI Diversity Committee is to aid the Institution in its efforts to recruit, retain and mentor a diverse community of employees, students and postdoctoral researchers.

>> Read the complete charge

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