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ACCESS+ Welcomes Second Cohort of STEM Professional Societies

Fourteen new societies will join a Community of Practice working towards creating equitable STEM spaces

WASHINGTON, DC, March 15, 2022 – The Amplifying the Alliance to Catalyze Change for Equity in STEM Success (ACCESS+) is excited to welcome its second cohort.

The ACCESS+ initiative seeks to create science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) spaces where a diversity of women and gender minorities thrive because of cultures that value inclusive excellence. By leveraging the expertise and networks of the ACCESS+ collective, the ACCESS+ team aims to bring about systemic, nation-wide transformation in support of more inclusive STEM academic professional cultures.

"STEM professional societies play important roles in helping shape the culture of their respective discipline, and as such, are crucial to promoting and fostering inclusive excellence," says Gretal Leibnitz, PI. "We look forward to supporting our new cohort in working toward STEM diversity, equity, and inclusion reform."

An ultimate objective of the ACCESS+ initiative is to support upwards of 60 representatives from over 30 STEM professional societies in a community of practice that shares evidence-based policies and practices, engages in professional development to enact effective change, and works to create societies that practice DEI values.

When it comes to DEI, ACCESS+ helps STEM professional societies develop key competencies, identify organizational strengths and opportunities, create strategic action plans for meaningful change, and learn about resources, policies, and practices to support their efforts. The new cohort will begin its work with the first known U.S.-based, comprehensive DEI professional society self-assessment tool, the Equity Environmental Scanning Tool (EEST), to guide society action.

Cohort 2 societies:

1. Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP)
2. Geospatial Information & Technology Association
3. Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF)
4. Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)
5. Audio Engineering Society, Inc. (AES)
6. National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
7. Biomedical Engineering Society (BMES)
8. Virginia Academy of Science
9. The National Association of Multicultural Engineering Program Advocates (NAMEPA)
10. American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics (ASCPT)
11. American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

12. The Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. (CUAHSI)
13. American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)
14. Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)

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About ACCESS+:
The Amplifying the Alliance to Catalyze Change for Equity in STEM Success (ACCESS+) Initiative, funded by National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE Partnership grant #2017953, aspires to leverage STEM professional societies to accelerate systemic STEM culture-change to advance gender diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Led by the Women in Engineering ProActive Network (WEPAN), partners on the grant include the ADVANCE Implementation Mentors (AIM) Network; the NSF INCLUDES Aspire Alliance: National Change Initiative; the ADVANCE Resource and Coordination (ARC) Network; and the Alliance to Catalyze Change for Equity in STEM Success (ACCESS). To learn more, visit accessplus.com.

About WEPAN:
WEPAN is a non-profit educational organization founded in 1990. Recognized as the leading champion in North America for leveraging research and best practices to propel the inclusion of women in the field of engineering, WEPAN advocates to fully embrace diversity, equity and inclusion to meet the demands of today's innovation and performance-driven business culture. Dedicated to advancing cultures of inclusion and diversity in engineering higher education and workplaces, WEPAN connects people, research, and practice to increase participation, retention and success of women and other under-represented groups in engineering from college to executive leadership. To learn more, visit www.wepan.org.