

ACCESS+ Welcomes Third Cohort of STEM Professional Societies

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

WASHINGTON, DC, May 25, 2022 – The Amplifying the Alliance to Catalyze Change for Equity in STEM Success (ACCESS+) is excited to welcome its third 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.”

The ACCESS+ initiative is currently supporting 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 3 societies:

1. American Council of Engineering Companies
2. American Fisheries Society
3. American Meteorological Society
4. Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography
5. Coastal and Estuarine Research Federation
6. Illuminating Engineering Society
7. International Association for Great Lakes Research
8. Marine Technology Society
9. North American Lake Management Society
10. Phycological Society of America
11. Society for Freshwater Science
12. Society for the Study of Evolution
13. Society of Wetland Scientists

14. The Oceanography Society

###

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.