



## Meeting Summary

*Julie Wulf-Knoerzer, Argonne National Laboratory*

On Wednesday, January 25, 2023, the National Laboratory Women of Color Community Forum held their first quarterly meeting with 250 women of color and their allies from the national labs and the Department of Energy participating virtually.

Kim Budil, Director of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and Chair of the National Laboratory Directors' Council opened the meeting with welcome remarks followed by brief updates since the last meeting from Forum Chair and Vice Chair Valerie Taylor (Argonne National Laboratory) and Sandra Begay (Sandia National Laboratories). Selected updates included:

- Office of Science laboratories received updated annual DEI plan guidance that includes a new requirement to make demographic data publicly available from an intersectional lens as recommended in the NASEM "[Transforming Trajectories for Women of Color in Tech](#)" report.
- Forum organizers launched an [online survey](#) that will remain open through Q1 to shape annual activities.
- The meeting schedule for 2023 has been confirmed (see [website](#) for schedule).

Shalanda Baker, Director of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the Department of Energy, then provided brief insightful and inspirational remarks which were well-received. After briefly describing her background and motivation for joining for the

Department, she provided participants with advice and personal reflections. Key points included:

- This forum is essential to building community; it must be beloved and provide sounding boards.
- Don't doubt your inner voice.
- Don't be afraid to take advice from unexpected areas.
- Always be courageous; we have to speak truth to power and realize we all have power.

***"I feel you."***

**Shalanda Baker, Director of the Office  
of Economic Impact and Diversity, DOE**

- Mentor.
- Rest.
- Hold each other accountable and show gratitude.

Participants were then invited to join breakout sessions intended to gather input to determine clear and crisp definitions of topics most valuable to forum membership. Based on preliminary survey data, multiple breakout sessions were organized around the following topics:

1. Sharing personal narratives,
2. Information Exchange, and
3. Help with recruiting more women of color.

Each breakout session had a dedicated facilitator and notetaker who provided brief readouts following the sessions. Key themes emerging from the discussions included the desire to get to know forum members and learn from each other and our labs in order to determine how to best drive the forum forward. Participants agreed on the need for more dedicated time for breakouts at future meetings and forum organizers, facilitators and note takers will hold a follow-up meeting to discuss breakouts in more detail.

As with the kick-off in October, there was strong engagement and enthusiasm throughout the meeting. Sandra Begay closed the meeting by reminding participants to complete the survey and welcoming participating in future events. The next meeting will be held April 26, 2023, from 1:00p - 2:00p central.

*Special thanks to breakout session facilitators and note takers:*

*Moody Altamimi, ORNL*

*Sandra Begay, SNL*

*Toni Carter, INL*

*Liz Flynn, BNL*

*Rachael Gallodoro, PNNL*

*Kelly Johnson, LBNL*

*Stephanie Junca, ANL*

*Karen McDaniel, SNL*

*Tina Morrison, BNL*

*Julie Parente, ANL*

*Valerie Taylor, ANL*

*Dani Ushizima, LBNL*

*Janet Werner, ANL*

*Julie Wulf-Knoerzer, ANL*