



Meeting Summary

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On Wednesday, April 26, 2023, the National Laboratory Women of Color Community Forum held their second quarterly meeting. Due to member feedback, the majority of the meeting was spent in smaller breakout sessions following brief updates from Forum Chair and Vice Chair Valerie Taylor (ANL) and Sandra Begay (SNL).

Key highlights from the chair updates included:

- PNNL was acknowledged for hosting an in-person watch party for those participating from the Richland site.
- DOE Under Secretary for Science and Innovation Geri Richmond invited Forum Chairs to meet to find out how she can help support the Forum and brainstorm ideas for engaging DOE more closely in Forum activities.
- On a visit to SNL, Under Secretary Richmond requested a meeting with Forum members and they had a conversation over lunch about their personal career paths at Sandia.
- Labs were asked to follow the practice of assigning a Point of Contact for Forum activities to help get broad input and encourage coordination of local meet ups outside of the quarterly Forum meetings. Chief Diversity Officers at the labs have been asked to help with this.

In the breakout sessions, participants were posed with the following:

1. How did you get where you are now?
2. Discuss meetings you would most be interested in (local, regional, at conferences) and which?

Key themes reflected in the notes around how participants got where they are today included:

- Connections were instrumental in helping participants get where we are today.
- Mentoring played a part in personal and career progression.
- Many participants indicated they are active in our laboratory DEI and ERG Councils.

A wide range of feedback and input regarding potential meetups was discussed at during the breakouts.

- While there is a high preference for in-person meetings, it was noted by some that virtual would be more inclusive.
- It was emphasized that a single conference wouldn't attract everyone, but members identified meetings they attend regularly that could be used for possible meetups.
- Local events such as watch parties being held for forum events as well as regional meetups were also of interest to breakout participants.

As with past meetings, there was strong engagement and enthusiasm throughout the meeting. The next meeting will be held July 26, 2023, from 1:00p - 2:00p central.

About the Forum:

Following an event ("Achieving Equitable Representation for Women of Color at Our National Labs") held in March 2022 that drew over 500 registrants from across the laboratory system, the National Laboratory Directors' Council (NLDC) endorsed the chartering of this forum to:

- Cultivate a system-wide community to foster networking, support, and informal mentoring for women of color at the national laboratories.
- Increase integration with DEI efforts at the national laboratories.
- Provide a venue for information exchange.
- Serve as a resource for the NLDC and its working groups.

Doing world-class science depends on building a competitive, diverse workforce that can apply a variety of talents and perspectives. This forum focuses key issues affecting women of color at the national laboratories and similar institutions.

<https://blogs.anl.gov/nlwoc/>