



Meeting Summary

Julie Wulf-Knoerzer, Argonne National Laboratory

On Wednesday, July 26, 2023, the National Laboratory Women of Color Community Forum held their third quarterly meeting with women of color and their allies from the national labs and the Department of Energy. In addition to over 100 participants logged in virtually, local watch parties were held at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, and Sandia National Laboratories.

The majority of the meeting was dedicated to breakout sessions following updates and a summary of discussions from the April quarterly meeting provided by Forum Chair Valerie Taylor (ANL) and Vice Chair Sandra Begay (SNL).

Key highlights from the chair updates included:

- Based on feedback from past meetings, a [LinkedIn group](#) for all forum members to connect with each other has been established and members were encouraged to join the group and contribute to the conversation.
- The website has been updated to include [Points of Contact \(POC\)](#) from labs that have been provided to Forum organizers. Please keep POCs informed about local activities so they can be shared at our meetings and email list.
- The National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) is seeking 30 founding members to launch an Action Collaborative on transforming trajectories for women of color in tech. In addition to industry and academic institutions, many labs are enthusiastic about joining.

Valerie and Sandra then provided a recap of the discussions from the last Forum meeting and engaged attendees in a short discussion around their interpretations of the difference of sponsorship (i.e., actively helping to make connections) versus mentorship (i.e., helping with issues and answering questions independent of money or funding). All agreed that this would be a good topic for discussion at a future meeting.

The Breakout discussions focused on storytelling and advice followed by report outs from each group. Participants were posted with the following in their breakouts:

1. What is some advice you would give to your younger self?
2. And then please share any stories related to the advice.

Following the meeting, breakout notes were submitted to Forum organizers who upon review agreed to create a way to solicit and share more stories from and with Forum members. Details will be shared at the next Forum meeting on October 25.

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/>