

## **AGEP 2022 National Research Conference: Making Waves to Advance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the STEM Professoriate**

### **November 2-4, Corpus Christi, Texas**

Dear new and returning JSTEM readers,

Welcome to this Journal of STEM Education (JSTEM) Special Edition Volume 24, Issue 1. The academic committee who organized and hosted the AGEP 2022 National Research Conference hopes that you enjoy this issue and the wonderful contributions from our invited authors.

The 2022 AGEP National Research Conference (NRC) was held November 2-4, 2022, in Corpus Christi, Texas. The event hosted 183 attendees from 94 institutions and 26 AGEP alliances across three different locations in Corpus Christi: the Texas A&M Corpus Christi campus, the Texas State Aquarium, and the Omni Hotel. The event presented attendees with an abundance of valuable information to incorporate in their own research and institutions. To kick-off the conference, 13 posters were shared in a poster session, followed by a presentation from one of seven keynote speakers. Attendees were also given conference proceedings with 22 abstracts dedicated to advancing diversity in STEM education through multiple different outlets. Along with the event's seven keynote speakers, there were 11 parallel sessions throughout the event that allowed attendees to present their selected work to the remaining attendees who chose to attend their designated talk. When information was not being presented, alliances were given the opportunity to attend five working sessions to collaborate with their team and others.

The conference hosted the inaugural class of NSF AGEP National Research Conference Lighthouse Beacon Fellows (LBF). Selection of the 2022 awardees involved a competitive, multi-step nominating, applying, and reviewing process. The inaugural class of NSF NRC Lighthouse Beacon Fellows consisted of 10 associates representing AGEP Alliances from coast-to-coast. Prior to the 2022 NRC, the fellows were featured on the podcast *Engineering Change* hosted by Dr. Yvette Pearson, P.E., Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at The University of Texas at Dallas. In Corpus Christi, TX, during the NRC, the fellows fulfilled several roles. Each LBF, lead a concurrent session, engaged with conference attendees at meals and on breaks, attended invited talks, participated as panelists for a session chaired by Dr. Tasia C. Bryson at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. After the 2022 NRC, the fellows contributed to a recap and reconnect virtual meeting provided to the NSF AGEP community. Lastly, the fellows joined a reflective yet rigorous NSF AGEP Cohort Member Research Study. Altogether the Lighthouse Beacon Fellows provided outstanding participation and valuable insights throughout the ongoing phases of the 2022 conference.

Conference success was not accidental. Careful planning, purposeful effort, committee engagement, diverse talents, and active participation all came together to result in an impactful event for those who attended. The conference evaluation report reflected success, too. Over 90% of respondents reported the event as being valuable, and over 95% indicated the conference helped them in their work. Respondents reported there were "so many ideas, and so many people committed to systematic change." The articles contained in this special issue were selected from those presented at the conference following a double-blind peer review process.

The 9 invited articles in this volume of JSTEM cover focus points obtained through a preconference survey. Highlighted conference topics in this journal, taken from the survey included, 1) Creating institutional changes in policies and practices, 2) Institutionalizing and sustaining your alliance, 3) Institutional and departmental climate/environment, 4) Developing, updating, evaluating, and replicating models, 5) Educational and Social Science Research, 6) Evaluation of AGEP projects and models, 7) Using an intersectional lens to

consider how to customize the experience to each participant, and 8) Expanding collaborations. This broad overview of our conference and the conference proceedings can be found at AGEP 2022 National Research Conference (tamucc.edu).

We acknowledge and appreciate the members of the Journal of STEM Education's Editorial Board. The efforts and talents of Format Editor Wally Ridgway, Associate Editor Eliza Banu, Managing Editor Murty Raju, Editor in Chief P.K. Raju, and Editorial Assistants Anna Mathis, Nic Rasool, and Anastasia Johnston are critical to the journal's success. If you are interested in publishing your research in JSTEM, please visit [jstem.org](http://jstem.org) for submission instructions. Please contact [jstemed@mail.com](mailto:jstemed@mail.com) with comments, questions, or availability for ad hoc reviewing.

Thank you for reading, we wish you a healthy and productive year.



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