



Impact Statement

Project Title:

Convening of 1862 and 1890 Diversity Officers to share best practices and create additional learning and development in the Land-Grant System

Issue:

Over the years, there has been an increased need of learning in the area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion among our Land-grant Colleges, specifically in Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life Sciences. There has been the addition of several positions that have been charged with creating a diverse, equitable and inclusive college environment. However, there are not many if any conferences that focus on the learning and development of these individuals with a specific focus on Colleges of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Life Sciences and diversity, equity and inclusion. As a result, I have proposed a conference/convening of these individuals that will gather for a sharing of best practices, learning and development, through an organized meeting to share how to increase diversity, equity and inclusion in Teaching, Research and Extension in the Land-Grant System.

What has been done:

A survey has been done to assess the need among Land-Grant Institutions leaders in the area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, potential attendance of the event, and potential partners have been discussed. A location for the conference if held in 2019 has been selected and agreed upon through the National MANRRS organization and funding sources have been identified for 2020 if an independent location is selected. The scope of the conference has changed with the addition of new partners so it is more likely the event will be scheduled for 2020.

Impacts/New Partnerships:

New partnership among Michigan State University College of Agriculture and Natural Resources and Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. Both collaborators are from the respective institutions. Additionally, we will solicit funding from government and corporate industries.

Outcome of Project (societal impact/ measure of increased quality of life)

Increased knowledge in the area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion among Diversity and Inclusion Officers in Colleges of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Life Sciences. A more inclusive 1890 and 1862 system lead to increased productivity, collaborations and stronger bonds. A sharing of best practices lead to increased knowledge, capacity and sharing of resources to solve issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion.

How has your project been aided by your FSLI experience?

The FSLI Project has been aided by my FSLI experience by allowing me first-hand to see the need across the 1890 and 1862 institutions from the conversations that we had as a cohort, learn of the challenges and perspectives from a myriad of colleagues that are leaders at their respective institutions. Additionally, I was also able to collaborate with a colleague in my cohort on this specific project. As collaborators, we have similar roles and thought this would be a project that we would need to make happen annually and eventually form a leadership structure of Diversity and Inclusion Officers in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Life Sciences.

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