Message from the Assistant Dean of Diversity and Inclusion

This past year was one of growth and impact for the WSE Office of Diversity and Inclusion. We welcomed Stacey Marks as our inaugural diversity program manager who has contributed greatly to the expansion of recruitment and retention initiatives. We increased outreach and partnerships with HBCUs and MSIs and, as a result, doubled our recruitment of VTSI and Percy Pierre Fellows.

We were awarded a $3.1 million NSF AGEP Alliance grant in collaboration with Carnegie Mellon and New York University to develop a model that promotes equitable advancement of early career engineering faculty from underrepresented groups. The grant has enabled a rigorous external assessment of our policies and practices, while expanding the mentorship networks of our early career faculty.

The highlight of this year was undoubtedly the inaugural Black Excellence Conference we hosted in collaboration with PHutures. We are grateful for those who collaborate and engage with us, and we look forward to another year of impact.

Office of Diversity and Inclusion Mission

The Whiting School of Engineering (WSE) Office of Diversity and Inclusion serves as a central hub for diversity, equity, and inclusion programs, initiatives, resources, and engagement. Our mission is to create an inclusive culture that attracts diverse talent, while providing opportunities for all members of our community to succeed. Integral to our work is examining and disrupting patterns or systems that reproduce inequity and implementing evidence-based practices that affect change. We provide thought leadership on critical diversity issues to increase awareness of barriers and challenges that impact experience and outcomes for underrepresented groups in STEM. People, climate, and community are core to our mission and operations. As such, our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts are centered around four objectives:

- **Inspire Belonging**—foster an inclusive intellectual climate where all identities are affirmed and valued
- **Empower Potential**—equip individuals of exceptional promise to become scholars, leaders, and innovators by providing opportunities for development and engagement
- **Continuous Improvement**—regular assessment and evaluation to create accountability for diversity progress
- **Create Community**—develop authentic spaces for connection to learn from others and leverage the benefits of diversity
Darlene F. Saporu, PhD
Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion
Darlene provides strategic vision and programmatic leadership on equity, diversity, and inclusion. She has spearheaded numerous initiatives at Hopkins aimed at improving the school climate, recruiting, and retaining students and faculty from underrepresented groups, building partnerships with HBCUs and other peer institutions, and addressing concerns and providing support and mentoring to students and faculty on a wide range of issues.

Stacey Marks, MS
Diversity Program Manager
In 2022, Stacey was hired into this newly created position. She brings more than 20 years’ experience in graduate student recruitment and provides staff diversity and inclusion recommendations to institutional leadership. Stacey will continue to expand recruitment programs and partnerships and implement community building and professional development to support the success and retention of historically underrepresented graduate students. Additionally, she will manage initiatives that promote diversity, equity, and drive a culture of inclusive excellence.

Alexis Peña, PhD
Office of Diversity Graduate Fellow
As a graduate fellow in the Office of Diversity, Alexis supports strategic planning to improve diversity recruitment and retention. Alexis specializes in providing peer review assessments, data visualization, and graphics to identify university trends in faculty hiring and graduate student recruitment.

As a Passport to Future Technology leadership coordinator, Alexis leads the execution and implementation of a multi-year mentorship program aimed to enhance skills and career exploration for underrepresented doctoral students through professional development, industry panels, networking, and personalized mentorship. In 2023, Alexis completed her PhD in biomedical engineering at Johns Hopkins. She is currently also serving as a research postdoctoral fellow in the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Department of Biomedical Engineering, Translational Tissue Engineering Center (TTEC).

Our Team

Major Revenue and Scholarships

$3.1 Million
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

VIVIAN THOMAS SCHOLAR INITIATIVE
2
ENGINEERING SCHOLARS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2022
5
ENGINEERING SCHOLARS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2023

PERCY PIERRE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS
3
FELLOWS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2022
6
FELLOWS APPOINTED FALL ADMISSIONS 2023
The Strategic Planning Process

This report is the result of 12 months of data collection and analysis, consultation with stakeholders, focus groups, and task force deliberations/meetings.

**SUMMER OF 2022**

- Meetings with WSE leadership to define the scope, charge, and composition of the DEI task force. This was followed by a series of discussions about diversity challenges and opportunities (dedicated sessions) with diversity champions and department heads.

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

- Conducted internal SWOT analysis with support from the Office of Strategy Management. Engaged project management expert to help map/outline the process and timeline for completing the strategic plan.

**OCTOBER 2022**

- Began collecting trend data with the support of WSE Institutional Research on faculty and graduate student demographics, graduate recruitment, admissions, retention, and faculty hiring. At the same time, the University Climate Study working group was launched to develop a climate survey instrument for the whole university.

**NOVEMBER 2022**

- Began seeking external DEI consultant with higher education expertise to support the goal identification, self-study, data analysis, and writing of the strategic plan.

**DECEMBER 2022**

- DEI task force members asked to serve. Identified and hired external DEI consultant Ebony Terrell Shockley (University of Maryland).

**JANUARY 2023**

- First meeting of the DEI task force focused on goal identification and data-informed decision making. Data provided by WSE Office of Institutional Research was reviewed and analyzed by the DEI task force to identify areas of progress or areas for improvement.

**MAY/JUNE 2023**

- First full draft of WSE strategic plan developed, focusing on three goals:
  1. Improve assessment and accountability for diversity and inclusion progress
  2. Increase awareness and application of inclusive practices/behaviors in leadership, mentorship, and teaching
  3. Expand effective practices to increase recruitment and retention of URG faculty and students

**FEBRUARY 2023**

- Developed a needs assessment survey to gather input on DEI priorities from WSE stakeholders. The DEI task force and DEI consultant reviewed the survey, and it was revised before deployment to a sample of students, faculty, and staff. See the details below.

**WSE RANKED PRIORITIES IN THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT:**

- **HIGHEST RANKED**
  - 40% IMPROVING THE CULTURE AND CLIMATE
- **SECOND HIGHEST RANKED**
  - 28.2% FACULTY HIRING AND RETENTION
- **THIRD HIGHEST RANKED**
  - 13% GRADUATE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

**FOCUS GROUP OUTCOMES**

As a follow-up to the needs assessment, we conducted a focus group with first- and second-year PhD students.

**COMMUNITY AND PEERS ENGAGEMENT**

- Provide more welcoming and inclusive environments (labs and classrooms)
- Implement peer-to-peer mentoring
- Provide community-building opportunities for domestic and international students

**FACULTY AND DEPARTMENTS**

- Encourage departments to provide adequate orientations for new students
- Recommend guidelines for faculty to engage in periodic student well-being decisions
- Improve faculty diversity to establish representation for PhD recruitment and retention


Annual Report 2022

Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Community and Engagement

Photos from 2022 Black Excellence Conference, 2022 ODI Welcome BBQ, PFTL, and various Explore Hopkins events.
## Outreach and Recruitment

### Conferences Attended

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>CONFERENCES</strong></th>
<th><strong>STUDENT PROSPECTS ENGAGED</strong></th>
<th><strong>APPLICANTS YIELDED</strong></th>
<th><strong>PERCENT OF ELIGIBLE PROSPECTS THAT APPLIED (SENIOERS/POSTBAC)</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>16%</td>
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### Discovery Series

There were four discovery events hosted by Assistant Director of Admissions Ayana Teal. The discovery events are designed to broaden engagement and provide the audience with an overview of various topics such as funding opportunities, life in Baltimore, success tips, and diversity and inclusion. Darlene and Stacey co-sponsored the diversity and inclusion event on December 7 and presented the mission of the office including the support provided to doctoral students.

### Meet the Recruiter

Hosted by ODI partner, Assistant Director of Admission Ayana Teal

### HBCU and MSI Engagement

Specialized outreach includes campus meetings with faculty and staff with small-group presentations and engagement with students.

- **Howard University**
- **Morehouse College**
- **Morgan State University**
- **Spelman College**
- **University of Maryland Baltimore County**
- **Xavier University of Louisiana**

### Recruitment Services

- Work in collaboration with Marketing and Communication to attend recruitment events at minority serving institutions and HBCUs
- Invite faculty to showcase research during student campus visit days
- Visit external university departments for targeted student recruitment in specific research areas
- Provide mailing lists to identify external students in supported research programs
- Market internal department recruitment events

### Diversity Talk: Diversity in Higher Education
- Hosted by the XULA SGA Presidential Cabinet on Diversity and Inclusion
- Promoting Summer Research Programs and Explore Hopkins
- Presented to 16 students
- 1 participant admitted to Summer Research Program 2023

### Webinars, Open Houses, Discovery Events, Engaged Prospects

<table>
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<tr>
<th><strong>WEBINARS</strong></th>
<th><strong>OPEN HOUSES</strong></th>
<th><strong>DISCOVERY EVENTS</strong></th>
<th><strong>ENGAGED PROSPECTS</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1,405</td>
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Alumni Highlight

Adrian Johnston

EHOP was my first Hopkins experience; what could mean more than that? I met the people who would change my trajectory: Dr. Saporu, Dr. Gray, Dr. Ramesh, and others. Dr. Ramesh’s unplanned lab tour literally made me say to myself, “Wow, serious work is being done at Hopkins.” If it wasn’t for Dr. Saporu and Dr. Gray, I wouldn’t have known to talk to Dr. Cui about summer research in his drug delivery lab. And that’s not the end of it. If it wasn’t for Dr. Saporu and Dr. Cui who set up a meeting with Dr. Denis Wirtz, I can’t tell you where I’d be right now. I’m in Denis’ lab wrapping up my PhD; with Denis, I co-founded a cell therapy company called Meresin in April; and I worked with JHTV to secure funding for the company. My life is a dream, and it all started with EHOP and the amazing people I met there who are mentors and family to this day.
2022 EHOP Recruitment Strategies

Staff established contact with more than 70 program directors and faculty from HBCU, MSI, and HSI institutions with special emphasis on programs such as the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP). This approach to EHOP recruitment successfully yielded an increased applicant pool. Applicants (44%) stated that they received an email from their school or a faculty mentor encouraging them to apply.

The assistant director of Marketing and Communications enhanced the database of prospective students to ensure that efforts would reach the engineering audience. The outreach consisted of contacts from previous recruitment fairs, the National Name Exchange, and the McNair Scholars directory. With that, staff designed an EHOP communication campaign complete with personalized messages and interval communications to continue to encourage eligible participants to apply. Outreach included website updates, social media posts on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

To increase engagement, ODI hosted two Zoom meetings with admitted EHOP participants. Between the two sessions, 30 participants attended to learn more about attending EHOP and were able to begin to network with one another.

Applicant Pool: 2019 KSAS & WSE vs. 2022 WSE*

- 2019 TOTAL (in-person numbers)
  - 72
  - 19 INTERESTED IN ENGINEERING

- 2022 TOTAL
  - 68
  - 40† ADMITTED

*In 2022, Explore Hopkins was integrated with Arts and Science and Engineering degree prospects.
†39 attended—one canceled travel reservation due to school commitment

Targeted Partnerships

ODI works closely with HBCUs, minority serving institutions, and targeted partner institutions to provide opportunities for faculty, students, and staff to learn more about engineering degree programs. Prospective students range from freshmen (early engaged) to seniors/postbac.

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Early Engaged Prospects Highlight

UMBC and Penn Millennium Scholars Visits

The Penn State Millennium Scholars included freshman interested in learning more about engineering graduate programs. Visiting Hopkins is an annual component in the Millennium Bridge Program that provides exposure to research, possible summer research positions, and exploring life as a graduate student.

UMBC McNair Scholars—While attending a conference at UMBC, McNair Scholars from across the nation were invited to visit Hopkins Engineering to learn more about graduate programs.
The Office of Diversity and Inclusion received $3.1 million dollars in grant funds from the NSF's Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program. AGEP contributes to the NSF's objective to foster the growth of a more capable and diverse research workforce. The NSF AGEP grant supports institutional change models to include training, mentorship, and recruiting and retaining faculty who are from underrepresented groups including African Americans, Hispanic Americans, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Native Pacific Islanders.

In 2022, Johns Hopkins University, Carnegie Mellon University, and New York University launched this collaborative grant titled Project ELEVATE (Equity-focused Launch to Empower and Value AGEP Faculty to Thrive in Engineering). The goal of Project ELEVATE is to develop an infrastructure that promotes equitable advancement at JHU, CMU, and NYU for tenure-stream engineering faculty from AGEP populations as they transition from assistant to associate professors.
Goal of the Grant

Project ELEVATE’s framework interventions will focus on three major areas: 1) equity-focused institutional change designed to make structural changes that support the advancement of AGEP faculty, 2) identity-affirming mentorship that acknowledges and provides professional support to AGEP faculty holistically, recognizing all parts of their identity, and 3) inclusive professional development that equips all engineering faculty and institutional leaders with skills to implement inclusive practices. The Project ELEVATE kickoff virtual launch was held Friday, Jan. 20 with 25 attendees. Participants included the Project ELEVATE faculty, institutional faculty mentors, and the AGEP Project team members. Guest speakers included academic engineering leaders who provided career guidance and insight on overcoming barriers.

Academic guest speakers included:
- C. Fred Higgs, III, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Director, Rice Center for Engineering Leadership, Rice University
- Theresa Maldonado, Vice President, Office of Research and Innovation, University of California

Other activities included team building with participating faculty from all institutions. Faculty participants were asked to share challenges and identify their needs to support their professional success.

An inaugural Project ELEVATE two-day retreat will be held in June of 2023 in Baltimore, Maryland.
Meet the Percy Pierre Fellows and WSE Deans Scholars

1. NOAH BARNES
   2022 FELLOW
   MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
   CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, ALUMNI

2. SAVANNAH HAYS
   2022 FELLOW
   ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
   WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY, MORGANTOWN, ALUMNI

3. LAURA MCDANIEL
   2022 FELLOW
   ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
   MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, ALUMNI

4. CHRISS ACHA
   2022 SCHOLAR
   CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING
   UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE PARK

5. ANDY NELSON
   2022 SCHOLAR
   ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
   VANDEBILT UNIVERSITY, ALUMNI

6. MANUEL AYALA
   2022 FELLOW
   MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
   OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY, ALUMNI

7. KWAME MARKIN
   2021 FELLOW
   ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
   SWARTHMORE COLLEGE, ALUMNI

8. GWENYTH PORTILLO-WIGHTMAN
   2021 FELLOW
   COMPUTER SCIENCE
   UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, ALUMNI

9. EPHRATI ZELLEKE
   2021 FELLOW
   ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING
   GOUCHER COLLEGE, ALUMNI

10. LORENA VELÁSQUEZ
    2021 FELLOW
    MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
    NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY, ALUMNI

11. SAMUEL LECOURT
    2021 FELLOW
    COMPUTER SCIENCE
    SOUTHERN METHODIST UNIVERSITY

12. ALLI ABOBILARIN
    2021 SCHOLAR
    CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING
    UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON, ALUMNI

13. KYLE KAEO
    2021 SCHOLAR
    CHEMICAL AND BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING
    UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN, ALUMNI
**Incoming Fellows Student Orientation**  
In August 2022, we hosted an in-person graduate student orientation for incoming Percy Pierre, WSE Dean’s Scholars, and GEM Fellows. Orientation included introductions to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion and types of support available for students. We provided a seminar on self-advocacy and designed team-building activities.

**Orientation Event Satisfaction**  
11 of 13 Responded  
Respondents rated the overall quality of the orientation as excellent or very good! 9 of the 11 selected the seminar on self-advocacy as the best part of the orientation. 7 of 11 also selected team-building activities as the best part of the orientation.

**Professional Development for Fellows and Scholars**  
**Topic: Creating Effective Presentations**  
Students heard tips for improving professional presentation skills. They learned to structure a good networking pitch and practiced it to refine and produce impactful engagement.  
Speaker: Julie Reiser, Senior Lecturer, Center for Leadership Education

**Office of Diversity and Inclusion Welcome BBQ**  
 Welcomed incoming graduate students who networked with current graduate students and played outdoor games.

40+ Attendees

“I met so many people going through the same struggles as mine. I found a community.”  
— Sebastian Rubio  
fourth-year PhD candidate, mechanical engineering, cookout attendee

**ODI Student Ice Skating Social Event**  
Created opportunities for students to have fun and socialize.

“Darlene Saporu’s mentorship has created a warm and inclusive atmosphere for me, allowing me to fully enjoy my first year under her guidance. Her expertise, unwavering support, and commitment to my growth have been instrumental in my personal and professional development. I am grateful for her mentorship and highly recommend her to anyone seeking to excel in their endeavors.”  
— Laura McDaniel  
Percy Pierre Fellow, PhD candidate, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Black Excellence Conference

DECEMBER 2, 2022

The inaugural Black Excellence Conference was designed for doctoral students across Johns Hopkins University from the diaspora to provide an authentic space for bold conversations. Sponsored by the Provost’s Office PhD Professional Development Innovation grant, this conference covered topics facilitated by guest speakers from a variety of disciplines, higher education leadership, faculty researchers, community advocates, and a financial advisor.

These self-reflective, engaging seminars included topics and panel discussions covering:

- The Makeup of a Leader: Traits that Make You Great
- Finding a Career That Matches Your Passion
- Navigating the Threat of Racial Stereotypes at Work
- Showing up as Your Authentic Self Matters
- Managing Your Mental Well-being
- Financial Investment from Your Future
- Self-advocacy
- Learning Best Practices for Community Engagement

Black Excellence Conference Planning Committee

Darlene Saporu, Assistant Dean for Diversity and Inclusion, Whiting School of Engineering
Stacey Marks, Diversity Program Manager, Whiting School of Engineering
Roshni Rao, Executive Director of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Career Design
Brittney Tiffault, PhD Student, Cross-Disciplinary Graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences
Habben Desta, PhD Candidate, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Mary Omotoso, PhD Candidate, Department of Biomedical Engineering
Christine Kavanagh, Associate Vice Dean for Graduate Education and Lifelong Learning, Whiting School of Engineering

Passport to Future Technology Leadership

Passport to Future Technology Leadership (PFTL) is a program to enhance skills and create opportunities for URG doctoral students interested in industry careers. The goal of the PFTL curriculum is to provide career exploration, skill building for job seeking techniques, and mentoring for expanded networks.

12 GRADUATED IN 2022
23 FALL 2023 COHORT
21 NUMBER OF EVENTS IN 2022
70% OF MENTORS ARE HOPKINS ALUMNI

PFTL Evaluation Feedback

8 OF 8 RESPONDED

100% of survey participants would recommend PFTL to peers.
62.5% of survey participants thought it would be somewhat or extremely difficult to get consistent professional development workshops outside of PFTL.

“My mentor has been absolutely incredible. In addition to consistent biweekly meetings, he helped me and my lab secure a material transfer agreement with their company to test new cell culture materials, and we are already planning in-person mutual trips [for continued mentorship after the completion of the program].”

“The mentorship was AMAZING, I feel so lucky to have gone through the PFTL program.”

12 GRADUATED IN 2022
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Belonging

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Office of Diversity and Inclusion

22
“Specifically, it can be challenging to persist and feel a sense of belonging in spaces where there are few people who look like you or empathize with your experiences. The inaugural Black Excellence Conference provided me with both a strong sense of community and the opportunity to make lasting connections with Black graduate students that I otherwise would not have had the opportunity to meet. Sharing a space with successful Black people at the graduate level and above was magnetic, rejuvenating, and inspiring, and I hope to see more events like this at Hopkins.”

Habben Desta
Doctoral student, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
Conference planning committee member

“BEC Feedback
ATTENDEES WROTE:
“The presentations were insightful and constituted a compelling showcase of Black Excellence that need to be enacted more frequently across the country.
“It was great to be in community with other Black scholars while learning how to improve my time at the university.”
“I really enjoyed the speakers and the networking sessions to meet other Black grad students.”

KEISHA POLLACK-PORTER
BLOOMBERG CENTENNIAL CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

“MANY OF THE SPEAKERS WERE PHENOMENAL. THE FOOD WAS GREAT! THE NETWORKING AND JUST CONNECTING WAS WONDERFUL. A GREAT ONE-DAY CONFERENCE!”
BLACK EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE ATTENDEE

Black Excellence Conference Notable Stats

60+
REGISTERED FOR THE CONFERENCE

10
SEMINARS

15
GUEST SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

KEISHA POLLACK-PORTER
BLOOMBERG CENTENNIAL CHAIR, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY AND MANAGEMENT PROFESSOR

BECAUSE