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UMS TRANSFORMS: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Event Update

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UMS Transforms Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Event Update

1 message

Samantha Toner <samantha.toner@maine.edu>

Wed, Sep 8, 2021 at 1:51 PM

Cc: Jacquelyn Lowman <jacquelyn.lowman@maine.edu>, Glenn Cummings <glennc@maine.edu>, Kim-Marie Jenkins <kjenkins@maine.edu>

Bcc:

Good afternoon, all,

We hope this email finds you well and enjoying the start of our fall semester!

We are reaching out on behalf of University of Maine System (UMS) Transforms DEI Co-leads, University of Southern Maine President, Glenn Cummings, and University of Maine at Presque Isle Professor, Jacqui Lowman.

On April 23, over 400 members of the UMS community came together to discuss current barriers and potential solutions to ensure that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are at the forefront of the four primary UMS Transforms initiatives.

Since we were together last there have been progress and changes to report.

First, following the event in April, a Listening Session Summary Report was shared with UMS Transforms Co-Principal Investigators, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of Maine, Joan Ferrini-Mundy, and Vice-Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives and Chief Legal Officer, Jim Thelen.

Second, President Cummings, Professor Lowman, and Director of Organizational Effectiveness, Kim Jenkins, met with President Ferrini-Mundy and Vice-Chancellor Thelen to discuss the appropriate next steps. The original thought, as you may recall, was that we should follow up the listening session with a forum in October (the 29th), but that has changed, and we will explain why.

The four UMS Transforms teams have begun meeting and some have reached out with questions and thoughts about how to emphasize with intention Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in their design efforts. Further, as the UMS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Steering Committee convenes its own meetings we are keen to coordinate so as to best leverage our opportunities.

Therefore, following discussion with President Ferrini-Mundy and Vice-Chancellor Thelen, our plan is to take immediate action in two important ways.

First, President Cummings and Professor Lowman will reach out to the leads for each of the UMS Transforms prongs to listen, share the findings from our April event, and discuss the best ways to understand needs and coordinate diversity, equity, and inclusion practices moving forward.

Second, they will be partnering with Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Credential Attainment Rosa Redonnett and Director of Learning and Organizational Development Megan Clough to support and learn from the efforts of the UMS Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Steering Committee.

Thank you, again, for your commitment to UMS and for your work to improve Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in all that we do.

The UMS Organizational Effectiveness Team

(This message was sent to anyone who registered or participated in the 4/23/21 event. If you know of someone else who was holding October 29th on their calendar, please feel free to forward this message along.)

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