



Autumn DEI Newsletter

As the summer is coming to an end, we find ourselves welcoming another academic year. With so many new faces also joining the BCDB program, it's worth celebrating the wide range of backgrounds that continue to enrich our community. Here's to new beginnings with new friends!



[The vote] is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democratic society, and we must use it.

– John Lewis

TABLE of CONTENTS

- Page 1.** [Register to Vote!](#)
- Page 2.** [2024 BCDB Retreat Flyer](#)
- Page 3.** [Autumn Calendar of Events](#)
- Page 5.** [2024 BCDB Ice Cream Social Recap](#)
- Page 6.** [Around the City: Get to Know Atlanta](#)
- Page 7.** [Faculty DEI Spotlight: Dr. Jitendra Thakur](#)
- Page 9.** [Student DEI Spotlight: Zachary Bressman](#)
- Page 11.** [DEI Events Within and Around Emory.](#)

REGISTER
/// TO ///

VOTE

REGISTRATION
DEADLINE FOR GA:
OCTOBER 7

Students are allowed to vote in either their home state or the state where they attend school!

If you want to vote in Georgia and have a Georgia ID, [click here](#).

If you want to vote in Georgia and *don't* have a Georgia ID, [click here](#).

If you want to vote in another state, [click here](#).

Feel free to reach out to EmoryVotes at EmoryVotes@emory.edu with questions.

Interested in joining the BCDB DEI Committee?
Our first meeting is October 2 at 1 pm. [Click here!](#)



GET READY FOR THE ANNUAL



BCDB RETREAT

TREES ATLANTA

825 WARNER STREET SW

ATLANTA, GA 30310



**PLEASE
FILL OUT
THIS FORM!**



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST, 2024

11AM - 7PM



FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT [JEWEL.GATLING.II@EMORY.EDU](mailto:jewel.gatling.ii@emory.edu)

Calendar of Events

September

1	2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6	7 Ganesh Chaturthi
8	9	10	11 09/11 Remembrance Day	12	13	14
15	16 Mexican Independence Day	17	18 International Equal Pay Day	19	20	21 International Day of Peace
22 Fall Begins	23 International Sign Language Day	24	25	26	27	28
29	30 Orange Shirt Day					

Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 – October 15

Hispanic Heritage Month commences with multiple independence days across Latin America, including in Mexico and several Spanish-speaking Central American countries. This month serves to celebrate the historical contributions, incredible achievements, & cultural



observances of the Latin American community. First signed into law in 1988 as a period of observance, each year houses a new motif for the festivities. In 2024, the theme is "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together". With a large and influential Hispanic community in Atlanta itself, the city has plenty of ways to join in the fun as well!

Additional Month-Long Observances

- Childhood Cancer Awareness Month
- National Literacy Month
- National Recovery Month
- World Alzheimer's Month



Breast Cancer Awareness Month

In America alone, one of every eight women is diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime. With such a heavy impact of the disease in the lives of countless people, this month is to raise money toward funding treatments while also bringing public awareness to the importance of early screening. Anyone can donate or volunteer as a way to contribute toward the fight against this cancer.



One type of event for this cause that is frequently found in Atlanta is a fundraising walk or run. From the Pink Ribbon 5K Run to the Georgia 2-Day Walk for Breast Cancer, anyone can get involved just by signing up!

October

	1	2 Rosh Hashanah Begins	3 Navaratri Begins	4	5
6	7	8	9 World Mental Health Day	10 National Coming Out Day	12
13	14 Indigenous People's Day	15	16 Sukkot Begins	17	19
20	21	22	23	24	26
27	28	29	30	31 Halloween	

Additional Month-Long Observances

- Filipino-American History Month
- Polish-American History Month
- LGBTQIA+ History Month
- Diversity Awareness Month

Calendar of Events

Native American Heritage Month



To honor the culture and history belonging to the first Americans, November was initially designated in 1990 (formally in 1994) as **Native American Heritage Month**. The importance of this month is paramount to the origins of this country, for the presence and contributions of Native Americans are still the foundations of today's America, centuries later. We acknowledge that

the land that **Georgia** was founded upon belongs originally to multiple Native American groups: the **Creek, Apalachee, Cherokee, and more**. To properly recognize this month, keep an eye out for opportunities hosted throughout the state that highlight the diversity of Native American stories.



November

					1 Diwali	2 Día de los Muertos
3	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day	12	13 World Kindness Day	14	15	16
17	18 Transgender Day of Remembrance	19	20 World Children's Day	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29 Black Friday	30

Additional Month-Long Observances

- Diabetes Awareness Month
- National Alzheimer's Disease Month
- American Indian & Alaskan Native Heritage Month

December

1 World AIDS Day	2	3 International Day for People with Disabilities	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 International Human Rights Day	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 International Migrants Day	19	20	21 First Day of Winter
22	23	24 Christmas	25 Hanukkah Begins	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

Additional Month-Long Observances

- National Human Rights Month
- Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month
- Safe Toys and Gifts Month

HIV/AIDS Awareness Month

December 1988 was officially the first **HIV/AIDS Awareness Month** as the impact of the epidemic kept growing across the world. With a cure still not available for AIDS, efforts to raise money and bring awareness to this cause have persevered in order to provide increased accessibility to **health education, HIV testing services, and treatment options**. One example of this is the appearance of HIV testing vehicles at college campuses across the nation.



To keep spreading the word about these efforts, individuals can **volunteer to be ambassadors** who attend seminars and conferences, put up signs and posters, and speak to others in their area about getting tested in advance.

BCDB Ice Cream Social 2024

August 20, 2024



Thanks to everyone that showed up to **the annual BCDB Ice Cream Social!** We had a great time meeting the first year students as well as taking some time off while enjoying ice cream, pops, and floats.

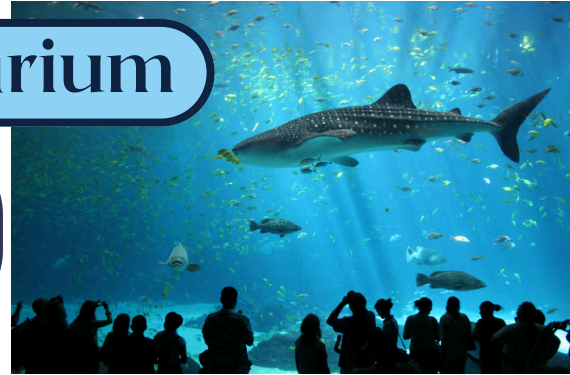


Around the City: Get to Know Atlanta

Zoo Atlanta

Georgia Aquarium

Being the **largest aquarium in the United States**, the Georgia Aquarium is the perfect place for an **annual pass** as new exhibits are put on display!



Chattahoochee River Recreation Area

Piedmont Park

Home to **over 200 acres of land**, you can find yourself watching ducks in the water, attending music festivals, and joining the **more-than-six million people** who visit each year!

Escape Rooms

Immersive Experiences



Atlanta Botanical Garden

With incredible **nature-based sculptures on rotation** throughout the year, the Botanical Gardens showcase the **interplay of local artwork with the city's flourishing biodiversity**. Don't miss it!



Stone Mountain Park

The King Center

Fernbank Museum

High Museum of Art

Centennial Olympic Park

World of Coca-Cola Museum

As **Atlanta is the birthplace of the original Coca-Cola** drink, it's no wonder that the company houses both its headquarters and an entire museum here. **Fun fact:** At the time of its donation, the **largest gift to a university came from the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation** - named for Woodruff, who was also the president of The Coca-Cola Company.



...and so much more!

DEI Spotlight - Dr. Jitendra Thakur

WHAT WAS YOUR PATH TO GET INTO SCIENCE?

I grew up in a village in the foothills of the Himalayas. It was a small but beautiful, safe, and comfortable place. Growing up, I was fascinated by science and always very curious about what was beyond the textbook. Although we didn't have a lot of resources, my friends and I would go to the library almost every day and wait for new books, which rarely arrived. Once, my Dad went to great lengths to get books for me to study from India's capital, New Delhi. My early teachers were incredibly supportive but thought I was a little ambitious for wanting to leave our state to pursue a career in science. Why would I want to leave a nice, safe place? Later, I did my PhD at the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bengaluru. Coming from a small place, I loved being with a very diverse group of people. I experienced firsthand how enriching and productive it is to have different minds and perspectives come together in science. I spent a few months in Edinburgh to do a fellowship through the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and later joined the Fred Hutch Cancer Center in Seattle for a postdoc position. Adjusting to a work environment outside India required significant effort, especially given that I had already passed my formative years. For example, I had to change from the more passive language I was accustomed to while describing my research –phrasing things like "this was done"—to a more active voice, such as "I/We did this." This shift took some time, but it helped me grow professionally in the new environment.



WHO WERE YOUR BIGGEST INFLUENCES?

My postdoc mentor, Dr. Steven Henikoff, really helped me become more sure of myself. He would attentively listen to me and always react positively, saying, "That's really interesting. I like that idea." Whether or not my ideas were objectively interesting, he always made me feel like I had important things to say and unique ideas to share. It just gave a boost to my confidence. Another very influential person in my life is my dad. Many women of my generation in India probably feel the same. Unlike in the previous generations, when people didn't care about women's education and opinions, my dad was very supportive of my aspirations. He would travel with me to whatever state I needed to take

DEI Spotlight - Dr. Jitendra Thakur

competitive entrance exams as I pursued higher education. Even if I didn't know how it would turn out, he always encouraged me to try anyway.

HOW CAN WE BEST SUPPORT OTHERS IN SCIENCE?

The best way to think about DEI is at the individual level. Some individuals want to talk about and acknowledge differences. Others would instead prefer to be considered part of the group without emphasizing these differences. I love connecting with the students I mentor and teach because each student has a unique perspective shaped by their unique background. I try to understand these different backgrounds and strive to create an environment where they feel like their creative and unique ideas are valued. Everyone has potential, and you have to help them see it, even if it is challenging for them to see it themselves.

WHAT DOES DIVERSITY MEAN TO YOU?

India is a large multicultural country, so diversity is often understood as cultural differences across states. It's not as much about race or gender. Any conversation about improving recruitment or other initiatives primarily revolves around socioeconomic differences. What struck me most while in Bengaluru was how sharing and discussing diverse ideas pushes science forward. Since moving to the US, my perspective on diversity has broadened to encompass a more comprehensive definition that includes race, gender, and other aspects. I love being here at Emory. We have the best students, and many wonderful colleagues are on board with and supporting DEI initiatives.

HOW DOES UNDERSTANDING EQUITY AFFECT HOW YOU TEACH?

I'm particularly mindful of students from across the globe who grow up without adequate resources. I've been there. I've experienced an abundance of resources in places like Bengaluru and the US. But I also know what it is like to grow with limited resources while dreaming of pursuing higher education. Therefore, I identify with and admire students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds. Equity is essential, especially in a STEM setting, to ensure everyone starts on a level playing field regardless of their background or where they come from.

Everyone has potential,
and you have to help them
see it even if it is
challenging for them to see
it themselves.

WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS?

Identify your strengths and focus on the positive. You were admitted because of who you are, and you have what it takes to succeed. If you find yourself struggling, don't wait too long for things to improve on their own. Identify colleagues and mentors who can help you and proactively communicate your problems to them. Surround yourself with people who respect your ideas, boost your confidence, and provide constructive feedback. Most importantly, be that person for others.

DEI Spotlight - Zachary Bressman



WHAT WAS YOUR JOURNEY INTO SCIENCE?

I've leaned towards becoming a scientist since around high school, but one event that jump started my interest in scientific research was being diagnosed with a neuromuscular disorder called Charcot-Marie-Tooth (CMT) disease Type 1a. While I recovered from reconstructive surgeries on my feet, I had the thought that it would be cool if I could work with the scientists who are trying to develop treatments or cures for this disease. Not a lot of people with chronic diseases have the chance to help out with the things they have. I reached out to a scientist in the area who was working on CMT and did a little bit of work for him while in high school. Work might be a bit of a stretch because it was mainly just janitorial stuff. I was a little too young to advocate for myself to get more actual work, but I was happy to be involved. Once I started doing more actual

science coursework in college at a small Liberal Arts college called Haverford, in Pennsylvania, I gradually moved towards my newfound favorite area which is RNA biochemistry. I may not be as involved with CMT research anymore, but I still keep up with it. I feel like it's an important part of the roots of my scientific journey.

WHAT IS YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON INCLUSIVITY IN SCIENCE?

Thinking back to when I was in high school, I wanted to help out because I knew what it was like to deal with CMT everyday. Back then, I just did it the old-fashioned way and cold-called scientists. Now there are other ways for people to get involved including programs and organizations that help people with chronic diseases and disabilities to get involved in science research. I think that's great. I will always advocate for more people with disabilities to get into science. But there's frankly not enough of us who can do lab work to keep pace with others.

WHO WERE SOME OF YOUR MENTORS ALONG YOUR WAY?

The earliest ones were the scientists who let me help them out. They were very influential, because I felt like I was really getting to be a part of increasing our knowledge of CMT. In terms of my current direction (starting my senior year of college), I've been fortunate enough to work for exclusively women in science. My college thesis advisor was a woman, Dr. Amy Cooke, my post baccalaureate boss was a woman, Dr. Heather Pua, and now I am co-mentored by two women, Dr. Homa Ghalei and Dr. Anita Corbett. It wasn't fully intentional, but they have all been great mentors.

DEI Spotlight - Zachary Bressman

WHAT LETTER WOULD YOU ADD TO THE "DEI" ACRONYM?

I would add the letter A for accessibility. Although accessibility is already built into the current acronym, it falls out of focus sometimes. That's not to say that it should be more propped up compared to the other avenues of DEI, every avenue should have people advocating on its behalf. However, if there was a separate subheading for different kinds of accessibility, then more discussion would land on those topics, and more people could get informed about the different barriers related to accessibility, not just in science but everywhere.

Science is creative and exploratory ... science is for everyone.

HOW CAN WE MAKE SCIENCE MORE ACCESSIBLE?

Accessibility touches on every subheading of DEI because there are many systemic barriers in place that have prevented people from marginalized backgrounds or underserved populations from getting not only the knowledge but the confidence to enter into science. An important part of DEI is working to melt away some of the barriers, and that belief has shaped a lot of what I've done up to this point. The more I learn, the more I feel early science education pushes away people who would be great scientists. Science is very exploratory and creative, but the way it's presented in high school and early college classes

focuses heavily on memorization and absolutes. For years, the attitude has been that if you can't do well in these classes, then maybe you aren't cut out to be a scientist. I once had a counselor suggest I drop out of the biochemistry concentration when I asked for help with difficult some class material. However, these classes don't paint an accurate picture of what science actually is, and by the time someone could feasibly get to a science course that does better depict how science and research works, involving discussion, reading literature, and unanswered questions, a lot of people have already been funneled out.

WHAT ADVICE HAS HELPED YOU?

It's up to you to be your biggest advocate. There will be people who see any hint of you struggling and suggest that maybe you're not suited for this. That's just not the case. There have been times when, because of my disability, lab work is more difficult. There may be equipment that I have trouble using, but that doesn't stop me from being a scientist. Science is for everyone. Don't discount yourself, and never be afraid to tell yourself that you're doing a good job. I know that impostor syndrome is something that hits everyone, but do your best to think outside the little impostor bubble and pat yourself on the back for the things you've accomplished so far. You're going to accomplish more .

Join us in the
BCDB DEI
Committee!

Scan this QR code to join!



Events

Upcoming Seminars and Workshops

The following events are in and around Emory! These events are not hosted by BCDB or the DEI committee but are opportunities that may be beneficial or enriching for students and faculty. Make sure to sign up in advance if you are interested and follow the links provided for additional information. For questions, follow the links provided and reach out to the event coordinators.

Event titles with *** indicate that LGS students can earn JPE610 credit!

Caregiver Conversations

Tuesday, Sep 10, 12 – 1pm

Tuesday, Oct 8, 12 – 1pm

Tuesday, Nov 12, 12 – 1pm

Tuesday, Dec 10, 12 – 1pm

“Are you caring for an older adult or disabled loved one? Join a virtual caregiver meet-up to discuss caregiving strategies, stressors involved with caring for loved ones. This will also be an opportunity to learn about resources within Emory/local community and beyond. Meetings take place the second Tuesday of every month from 12pm-1pm...”

Contact the organizers for more information:

<https://www.trumba.com/calendars/emory-events?eventid=171891492>

JWJI Events occur weekly this fall. See more info and events here:

<http://jamesweldonjohnson.emory.edu/home/colloquium/index.html>

Monday, September 16, 12 – 1:30pm –

“Rethinking U.S. Feminisms: Patsy Takemoto Mink, the Pacific, and Congressional Activism”

Monday, September 23, 12 – 1:30pm – “The

Cradle of Hope: How Haitian Independence Inspired the Birth of Black Internationalism in the United States”

Monday, September 30, 12 – 1:30pm – “Lessons from the Long Black Gay 80s: Atlanta 1986-1995”

Monday, October 7, 12 – 1:30pm – “Absent Presence: Nellie Y. McKay, the WNBA, and Foundational Sacrifice”

Monday, October 28, 12 – 1:30pm – “The Last Plantation: Racism and Resistance in the Halls of Congress”

Monday, November 4, 12 – 1:30pm – “Black Elders: The Meaning of Age in American Slavery and Freedom”

Monday, November 11, 12 – 1:30pm – “Racial Attitudes in America Today: One Nation, Still Divided”

Monday, November 18, 12 – 1:30pm – “The Spirit of Justice and the Black Christian Political Witness”

Monday, November 25, 12 – 1:30pm – “Expelling Public Schools in Newark: Lessons for Building Another City, Country and World”

Monday, December 2, 12 – 1:30pm – “Philippa Schuyler’s Adventures in Black and White”

Women's Health Research Lecture Series Featuring Dr. Danielle Soranno

Wednesday, September 18, 2024, 12 – 1pm EDT.
Virtual

“Join the Emory SCORE for it's monthly Women's Health Research Lecture Series on September 18, 2024, noon to 1 p.m., via Zoom. This WHRLS features Danielle Soranno, MD, Associate Professor, Indiana University School of Medicine, Riley Hospital for Children, presenting, “The Role of Sex in Acute Kidney Injury”. Register for Zoom link.”

RSVP and information:

<https://www.trumba.com/calendars/emory-events?eventid=176855725>

Native American Narratives in Comedy and Entertainment

Friday, September 20, 2024, 4 – 5pm EDT.
Oxford Road Building

“An inspiring conversation on Native representation in contemporary media with artists and changemakers — Brian Bahe writer on Fox's The Great North, Siena East, writer on Fox's Grimsburg, and Tai Leclair (Warner Bros.) They will discuss

narrative change and the important role of Native creatives leading Native stories. The panel is curated by comedian Jackie Keliiaa, founder of Good Medicine, an all-Native stand-up comedy show, and the September panel will be moderated by comedian and actor Adrienne Chalepah. Presented by the Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies and the Michael C. Carlos Museum. This event is free, but registration is required."

Register in advance:

<https://www.trumba.com/calendars/emory-events?eventid=173499827>

Diversity Week 2024: Equitable Dinners Atlanta

**Thursday, September 26, 2024, 4 – 6pm EDT.
Rollins School of Public Health**

"In recognition of your daily work of cultivating a collective community vision, we are inviting you to join the Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Initiative @ Emory University in collaboration with Equitable Dinners Atlanta for a Dinner, Dialogue, and Theater event. Open to the Emory, Metro Atlanta, and surrounding community. Come and Enjoy: Dinner, Dialogue, and Theater. Share a delicious meal on us. Play: Short (About 10 minutes) original monologue. Conversation: Listen to unique stories."

RSVP and information:

<https://www.trumba.com/calendars/emory-events?eventid=177297429>

Ethics at the Movies

Thursday, September 26, 2024, 7 – 9pm EDT

"The 2024-25 Ethics at the Movies series kicks off with Bulls and Saints. After 20 years of living in the U.S., an undocumented family decides to return home, little do they know it will be the most difficult journey of their lives. Set between the backdrop of the rodeo rings of eastern North Carolina and the spellbinding Mexican hometown they long for, Bulls and Saints is a family love story of longing and reverse migration. A discussion with the film's director, Rodrigo Dorfman, follows the screening."

RSVP and information:

<https://www.trumba.com/calendars/emory-events?eventid=176855142>

Ethics at the Movies

Thursday, October 24, 2024, 7 – 9pm EDT

"The 2024-25 Ethics at the Movies series continues with Lift. Filmed over ten years, LIFT shines a spotlight on the invisible story of homelessness in America through the eyes of a group of young homeless and home-insecure ballet dancers in New York City. After performing all over the world, ballet dancer Steven Melendez returns to the Bronx shelter where he grew up to give back to his community, offering a New York Theatre Ballet workshop to children."

RSVP and information:

<https://www.trumba.com/calendars/emory-events?eventid=176855399>

The Last Plantation: Racism and Resistance in the Halls of Congress***

Monday, October 28, 2024, 12 – 1:30pm

"This limited-entry, in-person session is hosted by the James Weldon Johnson Institute. Speaker Overview: James R. Jones is an Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Politics and Race in America at Rutgers University. He is the author of [*The Last Plantation: Racism and Resistance in the Halls of Congress*](#) (Princeton University, 2022)."

RSVP and information:

https://www.trumba.com/calendars/lgs_jpe?eventid=176756554

Racial Attitudes in America Today: One Nation, Still Divided***

Monday, November 11, 2024, 12 – 1:30pm

"This limited-entry, in-person session is hosted by the James Weldon Johnson Institute. Speaker Overview: Emmitt Riley is an Associate Professor of Politics and African and African American Studies at The University of the South. He is the author of [*Racial Attitudes in America Today: One Nation, Still Divided*](#) (Routledge, 2022)."

RSVP and information:

https://www.trumba.com/calendars/lgs_jpe?eventid=176756603

Expelling Public Schools in Newark: Lessons for Building Another City, Country and World***

Monday, November 25, 2024, 12 – 1:30pm

"This limited-entry, in-person session is hosted by the James Weldon Johnson Institute. Speaker Overview: John (Jay) Arena is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the City University of New York's College of Staten Island. He is the author of

[Expelling Public Schools: How Antiracist Politics Enable School Privatization in Newark](#) (Univ. of Minnesota, 2023).”

RSVP and information:

https://www.trumba.com/calendars/lgs_jpe?eventid=176767861

Emory and BCDB Resources

- [Emory University Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#)
- [The Emory Ombuds Office](#)
- [Emory University Department of Accessibility Services](#)
- [BCDB Diversity, Equity and Inclusion \(DE&I\) Committee](#)
- [James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference](#)
- [The Emory Black Student Union \(EBSU\)](#)
- [Centro Latinx](#)
- [Asian Student Center](#)
- [Emory LGBT Life](#)
- [Center for Women at Emory University](#)
- [Office of Respect](#)
- [Office for Racial and Cultural Engagement at Emory University](#)
- [Title IX](#)
- [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#)

Involvement Outside of Emory

14th Annual oSTEM Conference 2024

October 17-20, 2024 | Portland, OR

“The 14th Annual oSTEM Conference will take place in Portland, OR with 1,100+ LGBTQ+ students, professionals, and recruiters in STEM fields from across the country and around the globe. This space is designed for attendees to share their professional and personal experiences and learn from one another in an authentic and vulnerable way.”

Call for Posters: September 30

<https://conference.ostem.org/>

The National Diversity in STEM Conference (formally SACNAS)

Oct 31 – Nov 2, 2024 in Phoenix, Arizona.

“The largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM diversity conference in the country, SACNAS' premier conference is a gathering which serves to equip, empower, and energize participants for their academic and professional paths in STEM. Over the course of the event, college-level through professional attendees are immersed in cutting-edge STEM research, professional development sessions, motivational keynote speakers, and the Academic & Career Expo, as well as multicultural celebrations and traditions, and an inclusive and welcoming community of peers, mentors, and role models. Simply put, the NDiSTEM Conference is a broadly inclusive space where you are encouraged and empowered to bring your whole self to STEM.”

Register and info:

<https://www.sacnas.org/conference>

Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS)

Nov. 13-16, 2024 in Pittsburgh, PA.

“For over 20 years, the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) – recipient of the 2019 AIMBE Excellence in STEM Education Award – has been the go-to conference for underrepresented community college, undergraduate and postbaccalaureate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. As ABRCMS has continued to grow and evolve, it has also become a space for graduate students, postdocs, faculty, program administrators and more.”

Register and info: <https://www.abrcms.org/>

2024 AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024 - Friday, November 15, 2024

12:00pm - 5:00pm AAAS headquarters (Washington, DC).

“The theme of the 2024 AAAS Science and Human Rights Coalition meeting is "Building A Culture of

Trustworthy Science: Scientific Freedom, Scientific Responsibility and Human Rights."

Register and info:

<https://www.aaas.org/coalition/conference/2024>

Are you interested in scientific literature focused on DE&I topics?

If so, check out the NIH resource on peer-reviewed research articles on the importance of DE&I:

<https://diversity.nih.gov/science-diversity>

The NIH Office of Intramural Training & Education (OITE) Guide on Self Advocacy

https://www.training.nih.gov/assets/Self-advocacy_-_508_-_ps.pdf

Potential places to get involved:

- [Asian Americans Advancing Justice \(AAAJ\) of Atlanta](#)
- [NAACP](#)
- [Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund](#)
- [Disability Visibility Project](#)
- [500 Women Scientists](#)
- [500 Queer Scientists](#)
- [oSTEM](#)
- [ACLU Foundation of Georgia](#)
- [The Southern Center for Human Rights](#)
- [The Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science \(SACNAS\)](#)
- [STEM Equity Achievement \(SEA\) Change](#)
[Part of AAAS]

If you know of or are involved in any DE&I-related groups or organizations that you would like to see promoted, please let us know by [filling out this short form](#). Our next newsletter will be in the spring, but we can add events to the DEI calendar any time!

International Student Opportunities

This newsletter section is devoted to highlighting academic, professional, and DEI-related opportunities/fellowships for international students. Domestic students may still find interest in some of the listings below. For questions, please follow the provided hyperlinks to learn more about it.

LGSC Travel/Research Grants

If you are looking for an opportunity to get funding for an upcoming conference or research expense, please look at this funding opportunity given to us by LGSC:

Applications are now open for the LGSC Travel/Research Grant to cover conference or research expenses incurred between **Sept. 1—Dec. 31, 2024**. This grant is for Laney Graduate students and can cover reimbursements for up to \$250. Each student can claim an LGSC grant a maximum of two times during their time as an enrolled student in their program. There is a limited number of grants available each semester. To apply, submit your information via our form on [The Hub](#).

Cientifico Latino Database

Cientifico Latino supports a fellowship database for Pre-PhD and current PhD/Post-Docs. You can filter out fellowships that do not support Non-US Nationalities & Scholars, however, it is still advised to check out each fellowship individually to confirm their eligibility criteria.

- Link: <http://bit.ly/3UDhiSK>

Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship

The Paul and Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans targets outstanding immigrant applicants seeking to study for an advanced degree in the United States. **The deadline for applications for the 2025 cycle is on October 31st! You must be in your first or second year of graduate school.** The fellowship awards a total financial support of \$90,000, and fellows have opportunities to network with current and past fellows. Students past their third year in graduate school are not eligible. Additional eligibility criteria apply, please check out the link for more information.

- Deadline: **October 31st, 2024.**
 - Link: <http://bit.ly/3P2dA4d>
-

Local Cultural Celebrations and Events

This newsletter section highlights local (mainly Atlanta and surrounding areas) events that celebrate the diverse cultures found in the city. Events can range from food festivals, concerts, film festivals, drama, and many more! This is a wonderful way to experience other cultures and learn more about the diversity found in Atlanta.

Atlanta Food & Wine Festival

Big annual food festival with a variety of events including tastings, chef talks, and more.

- Date: **September 13-15 2024**
- Link: atlfoodandwinefestival.com

Sandy Springs Jam Fest

Inaugural festival of local and regional music at The Springs Cinema & Taphouse.

- Date: **September 14 2024**
- Link: springscinema.com

Georgia Latino International Film Festival

Annual festival of Latino/Latina-produced films.

- Date: **September 19-22 2024**
- Link: filmfreeway.com

Hauntlanta

Annual convention of paranormal culture at Lanier Islands, Buford.

- Date: **September 19-22 2024**
- Link: hauntlanta.com

North Georgia State Fair

Annual fair at Jim R Miller Park, Marietta, with carnival rides, animal shows, performances, rodeo, car events and more.

- Date: **September 19-29 2024**
- Link: northgeorgiastatefair.com

Atlanta Greek Festival

Annual festival of Greek food and heritage at Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, with

traditional Greek foods and food demonstrations, cathedral tours, live music and dancing, performances and more.

- Date: **September 20-22 2024**
- Link: atlantagreekfestival.org

Porches and Pies

Annual pie-themed food festival in Adair Park, with pie tastings and food trucks, vendor market, live entertainment, beer and cocktail garden, children's activities and more.

- Date: **September 21 2024**
- Link: porchesandpies.com

JapanFest

Annual festival of Japanese culture at the Gas South Convention Center, with Japanese food from local restaurants and food trucks, live performances, vendors and more.

- Date: **September 21-22 2024**
- Link: japanfest.org

Out on Film

Annual festival of LGBTQ+ filmmaking.

- Date: **September 26 - October 6 2024**
- Link: outonfilm.org

Sweet Auburn Music Fest

Popular annual R&B and gospel music street festival in the Sweet Auburn district, with international food, art and other vendors, local businesses and more.

- Date: **September 27-29 2024**
- Link: sweetauburnmusicfest.com

AIDS Walk Atlanta Music Festival & 5K Run

5K run/walk and music festival in Piedmont Park to benefit AIDS services in Atlanta.

- Date: **September 28 2024**
- Link: aidswalkatlanta.org

French Market Atlanta

French-style outdoor market in Buckhead Village District, with French food, crafts and live music.

- Date: **September 28 2024**

- Link: frenchmarketatl.com

Atlanta Arab Festival

Annual festival of Arabic food and culture at the Alif Institute, with traditional dishes from Arabic countries, live performances, vendors, exhibits, workshops, games and more.

- Date: **October 5-6 2024**
- Link: alifinstitute.org

Atlanta Pride Festival

One of the biggest Pride festivals in the country, held in Piedmont Park, with live performances, parade, marches, marketplace and more.

- Date: **October 12-13 2024**
- Link: atlantapride.org

FashionFest

Festival of urban-popular fashion and streetwear at Ambient Plus Studio, with fashion and footwear vendors, food, music and more.

- Date: **October 12-13 2024**
- Link: fashionfest.io

Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival

Annual festival of Scottish heritage at Stone Mountain Park, with traditional Scottish athletics, music, dancing, food and drink, and vendors. All are welcome.

- Date: **October 18-20 2024**
- Link: smhg.org

Native American Festival and Pow Wow

Big annual festival of Native American heritage at Stone Mountain Park, with live traditional dance, music and storytelling performances, craft demonstrations, wildlife presentations, arts and crafts and more.

- Date: **October 31 - November 3 2024**
- Link: stonemountainpark.com

Día de los Muertos Festival

Free family festival at Woodruff Arts Center, with live music, mariachi band, vendors, food trucks, children's activities and more.

- Date: **November 2 2024**
- Link: aso.org

IrishFest Atlanta

Annual festival in Roswell celebrating Irish culture, with musical and dance performances, Irish short films, Irish language and other workshops, sports, food and drink, and more.

- Date: **November 8-10 2024**
- Link: irishfestatlanta.org

Tree Lighting on the Square

Holiday tree lighting ceremony and caroling in downtown Decatur.

- Date: **December 5 2024**
- Link: facebook.com/events

Winterfest

Annual holiday festival in the Virginia-Highland neighborhood, with tour of lights, live music, food trucks, fun run, motor parade, gift marketplace, children's activities, and more.

- Date: **December 13-14 2024**
- Link: virginiahighlanddistrict.com

Menorah Lighting

Annual holiday celebration in downtown Decatur, with music, refreshments and menorah-lighting ceremony.

- Date: **December 29 2024**
- Link: facebook.com/events

Warm wishes,

Your Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee