



NWQMC JEDI Statement

To promote a more inclusive environment, the National Water Quality Monitoring Council created the Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) committee. We welcome people of all backgrounds and desire to foster a culture where all participate freely. We are committed to actively improving JEDI throughout Council activities and acknowledge that our JEDI initiatives are a work in progress.

JEDI Initiatives at the NMC 2021

Daily prompts on the community discussion board - Every Day (4/19 – 4/23)

One of the goals of the JEDI team is to weave awareness about issues relating to diversity, equity, inclusion and justice throughout the conference. Daily prompts will encourage attendees to explore these topics through self-reflection, writing and conversations with colleagues. Look for the prompts on the Conference Whova App each morning.

Training: Transform Your Implicit Racial Bias (2 parts) – Monday (4/19) and Friday (4/23)

This course is part of the NWQMC's commitment to progressing justice, equity, diversity and inclusion in our fields. The path to systems and a culture that are predominantly inclusive and equitable is an iterative journey from unaware to advocate. The learning objectives of this course are:

- Identify your implicit bias
- Learn how the white frame of reference shows up in everyday life for you
- Define a process to take care of yourself and help you overcome emotions to have effective conversations about bias and racism
- Introduce resources and tools for continued exploration and growth

This a 2-part training with 3 hours on Monday and 90 minutes on Friday. We request participants attend entirety of both sessions for continuity and safety. Registration is required.

Lightning Round Session – Monday (4/19)

We seek to highlight and facilitate discussions on how to empower the voices of underserved and minoritized communities on environmental and water-quality-based issues, in part through an extended session featuring a series of lightning talks from the NMC community. Lightning round presenters speak up to 10 minutes, sharing their experiences and ideas during this extended session focused on JEDI issues.

Plenary Speaker: Chandra Taylor, Southern Environmental Law Center – Tuesday (4/20)

Chandra Taylor is a senior attorney in the Southern Environmental Law Center's Chapel Hill office specializing in water quality and environmental justice issues. Chandra first began her career at SELC in 2006, following years of practice as a consumer protections attorney. She also serves as an adjunct professor at University of North Carolina School of Law and on the board of the North Carolina Justice Center. Chandra has led work in North Carolina to force cleanups at contaminated industrial sites, stop water pollution threatening North Carolina communities, and shape transit and landfill policies. In 2007, she helped lead the overhaul of North Carolina's Solid Waste Management Act, in order to protect lower-wealth communities and communities of color, as well as natural resources, from being disproportionately harmed from landfill-siting.

Networking sessions with discussion of prompts – Friday (4/23)

Are you interested in exploring how we can improve Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) within the water quality monitoring community? Do you want to learn more about how we can engage with groups that are typically underrepresented in the field? If so, consider joining the JEDI meeting on Thursday, April 22 (specific details to follow). The meeting will be a facilitated discussion inspired by participants' input on the community board and daily JEDI prompts. We look forward to seeing you there!