

# Disrupting Ableism and Advancing STEM: Cultivating Accessible Educational Pathways and Spaces

Sponsored by the National Science Foundation

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023**

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**12:00–12:05 PM ET**

## **Welcome from the Planning Committee Member**

- Emily Ackerman, PhD  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Lahav Lab, Department of Systems Biology,  
Harvard Medical School

**12:05–12:35 PM ET**

## **Changing Mindsets: Systems, Policies, and Programs**

Moderator:

- Emily Ackerman, PhD  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Lahav Lab, Department of Systems Biology,  
Harvard Medical School

Panelists:

- Yvette E. Pearson, PhD  
Vice President, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, University of Texas, Dallas
- Lisa Meeks, PhD  
Clinical Associate Professor, University of Michigan and Executive Director,  
DocsWithDisabilities Initiative

**12:35–1:15 PM ET**

## **Creating Disability Friendly Inclusive Accessible Spaces in Higher Education**

Moderator:

- David Caudel, PhD  
Associate Director, Frist Center for Autism and Innovation, Vanderbilt University

Paper Presenters:

- Sam Catherine Johnston, EdD  
Chief, Postsecondary and Workforce Development Office, CAST
- Luis Pérez, PhD  
Disability and Digital Inclusion Lead, Postsecondary and Workforce Development  
Office, CAST

Reflections:

- Jacquelyn Chini, PhD  
Associate Professor and Undergraduate Program Associate Director,  
Department of Physics, University of Central Florida
- Bradley Duerstock, PhD  
Professor of Engineering Practice, Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering and  
School of Industrial Engineering, Purdue University
- Caroline Solomon, PhD  
Director, School of Science, Technology, Accessibility, Mathematics, and  
Public Health (STAMP) and Professor of Biology, and Interim Program Director,  
Public Health Program, Gallaudet University

**1:15–1:35 PM ET**

***Break***

**1:35–2:15 PM ET**

**Lived Experiences: Listening, Learning, and Acting**

Moderator:

- David Caudel, PhD  
Associate Director, Frist Center for Autism and Innovation, Vanderbilt University

Panelists:

- Megan Lynch, MSc  
Master's Student, Graduate Group of Horticulture & Agronomy,  
University of California, Davis and Founder of UC Access Now
- Hari Srinivasan, BA  
PhD Student, Department of Neuroscience, NISE Fellow, Frist Center for Autism and  
Innovation, Vanderbilt University
- Stephanie Feola, PhD  
Recent Graduate, Department of Chemistry, University of Florida and Postdoctoral  
Research Associate, University of Arkansas at Little Rock

**2:15–2:45 PM ET**

**Transition to Work**

Moderator:

- Emily Ackerman, PhD  
Postdoctoral Researcher  
Harvard Medical School

Panelists:

- Rasheera Dopson, MPH  
Research Assistant II, National Center of Primary Care-Research & Policy Division,  
Morehouse School of Medicine
- Laureen Summers, BA  
Project Director, AAAS ISEED (Inclusive Ecosystems for Equity and Diversity) - Entry  
Point! Program, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
- Kimberly J. Osmani, PhD  
Senior Extension Associate, K. Lisa Yang and Hock E. Tan Institute on Employment  
and Disability (YTI), Cornell University
- Taryn M. Williams, MA  
Assistant Secretary, Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), U.S. Department  
of Labor

**2:45–3:00 PM ET**

**Reflection and Overview of Upcoming Series Sessions**

- Emily Ackerman, PhD  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Lahav Lab, Department of Systems Biology,  
Harvard Medical School
- Christopher Atchison, PhD  
Program Director, Directorate for STEM Education (EDU), Division for  
Equity of Excellence in STEM (EES), National Science Foundation (NSF) and  
Professor, School of Education and Department of Geology, University of Cincinnati
- Mark H. Leddy, PhD, MS  
Lead Program Director, Division of Equity for Excellence in STEM and the  
Directorate for STEM Education (EDU), National Science Foundation

**3:00 PM ET**

**ADJOURN**