

Out to Innovate *Bulletin*

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Out to Innovate, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena CA 91109, phone/fax: 626 791-7689, www.noglstp.org

Out to Innovate at Society of Women Engineers 2021 National Meeting

The Society of Women Engineers (SWE) hosted their SWE21 national conference in Indianapolis in late October. Board members Marcie Mathis and TJ Ronningen both attended the meeting and represented Out To Innovate at the career fair and expo. Mathis is also the chair of the SWE LGBTQ+ affinity group and the representative for our SWE affiliate.

Mathis and Ronningen had the opportunity to talk with at least 100 students attending the event, most of whom were not aware of Out To Innovate. Ronningen said, "I was impressed at how many students were thinking about how to support the LGBTQ+ student in STEM on their campuses. I was frequently asked, 'what can we do to help', which was wonderful to hear." Several company and organization representatives also made a point of stopping by the booth to learn more about Out To Innovate's work with STEM professionals.

Mathis organized and supported a networking event for the SWE LGBTQ affinity group that filled its space to capacity. Happily, Ronningen was able to host some of the overflow crowd back at the booth in the expo hall. Ronningen shared information about Out To Innovate at a meeting with SWE partners NSBE, SHPE, ASES, AISES, and oSTEM.



Marcie Mathis and TJ Ronningen at the Out to Innovate booth at the SWE national meeting.

Out To Innovate Launches Pilot Mentoring Program

Out To Innovate, in collaboration with Great Minds in STEM (GMiS), is proud to offer a unique mentorship opportunity to LGBTQ+ STEM students. Mentoring has always been a key and strong interest for Out To Innovate; therefore, the Board has decided to join forces with GMiS to start a pilot program offered to 20 OTI scholarship awardees for the fall semester.

The mission of Out To Innovate's Mentoring Program is to foster the new generation of LGBTQ+ professionals in STEM, helping them to successfully navigate the professional space while embracing their LGBTQ+ identity. By leveraging the full range of OTI members, facilitating networking opportunities, and creating a supportive and positive environment, the OTI Mentoring Program's goal is to embolden the new generation of LGBTQ+ professionals in STEM by providing them with the skills and tools to form their identities, to strengthen their voices, and to become future mentors and leaders.

During the summer months, an OTI task force worked in coordination with GMiS to create a branded portal on the MentorNet platform, to generate LGBTQ+-specific topics, and to match mentees with their mentors.

This pilot program was launched in October 2021 and will continue for approximately 20 weeks.

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Chair's Note

I was thrilled to represent Out To Innovate at the SWE national meeting in October. This was my first time at an in-person professional meeting since the pandemic restrictions. SWE set an excellent example of running a post-pandemic event well, with health protection measures in place that gave me confidence to be there, alongside lots of encouragement to interact and engage. The attendees, me included, were eager to engage with one another, to start and renew professional relationships.

One valuable way to support our mission and advance our organization is to share about Out To Innovate with your professional societies. Over the last two years, we've been happy to see an increased interest from professional societies—engineering societies in particular—to examine what they are doing to support diversity and inclusion. We have been invited to speak to society leadership and at webinars. These exchanges will hopefully open the door to long-term partnerships.

If you are a member of Out To Innovate and other professional organizations, I encourage you to also consider being a bridge between the two organizations. You are invested in supporting LGBTQ+ people in STEM, and you know how your other organizations work and the opportunities there. If you have an upcoming event where you would be willing to represent Out To Innovate, the Programs Committee is happy to help members organize material to support a booth or table. Many organizations are willing to provide space for non-profit, diversity in STEM organizations, and the Committee can also help to make the case if needed. The Committee can provide printed information to distribute and small give-aways. We can also work to provide additional, in-person support if needed.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next, in-person Out To Innovate event. Until then, hopefully we will cross paths at other conferences and events.

- TJ Ronningen

Tori Cooper Appointed to Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA)

Tori Cooper is the first black, transgender woman to be appointed to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). PACHA offers advice on HIV/AIDS-related policies, research, and programs to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. Cooper has spent decades advocating for trans people living with HIV. She founded Advocates for Better Care Atlanta, LLC in 2015 and serves as the Director of Community Engagement for the Human Rights Campaign's Transgender Justice Initiative. She is currently working towards obtaining a Master of Arts degree in Public Health.

Dr. Rachel Levine Named Four-Star Admiral in US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps

Rachel Levine, US Assistant Secretary for Health at the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) since March, was sworn in October 19th as the first openly transgender four-star admiral and the first female four-star admiral of US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, the highest ranking official in the commission. Levine, an accomplished pediatrician, is poised to lead the way in public health to provide healthcare for underserved and vulnerable populations.

EngiQueers Canada

In October, board members from Out To Innovate met with the leadership of EngiQueers Canada to learn more about the organization and discuss potential collaborations. EngiQueers is a student-run coalition of campus groups supporting LGBTQ+ undergraduates in STEM. They have hosted some online events to bring the groups together. As part of Out To Innovate's goal of broadening our membership outside of the United States, we appreciate this opportunity to learn about EngiQueers.

The Canadian Advisory Network of Engineers who identify as Queer and/or Trans* (or CANEQT for short) is EngiQueers' web platform that connects LGBTQ2+ engineering students with engineering professionals and queer-friendly companies. To participate in this program, participants fill out a questionnaire. For professionals, the questions ask for your contact information and what you are available for (speaker panels, mentorship, etc.). Students fill out their own form to participate in this initiative and gain access to professionals' information, to reach out in the case that they need mentorship, a speaker for a panel, etc. Learn more or sign up for CANEQT at <https://www.engiqueers.ca/caneqt>.



Gender-Neutral Passports Issued

The U.S. Department of State has issued its first passport with an 'X' gender marker. The new marker supports non-binary, intersex, and gender non-conforming individuals and allows them to select a gender identifier other than male or female. The 'X' gender designation will be available to routine passport applicants after the Department finishes system and form updates in early 2022, according to the announcement. In June, the State Department announced that it would provide more gender-inclusive policies for passports and birth certificate documents. The Department no longer requires medical certification to change the gender marker on passports..

University of California System Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name Announced

The University of California (UC) system is actively addressing areas of systemic exclusion by enacting the Presidential Policy on Gender Recognition and Lived Name. This measure ensures that UC community members are recognized by their correct gender identity and are addressed by lived or preferred names on all documents within UC information systems. The policy applies to all students, faculty, staff, alumni, and affiliates and enables them to retroactively amend their gender designations on university-issued documents.

Orphan and Cherniak Elected AGU Fellows

Victoria Orphan and Daniele Cherniak are among the group of 59 scientists elected as Fellows of the American Geophysical Union (AGU) in 2021. Since 1962, this honor has been bestowed on fewer than 0.1% of AGU's members. Orphan, a geobiologist at the California Institute of Technology, is a 2016 MacArthur Fellow, and has been a keynote speaker and panelist at Out to Innovate summits. Cherniak, a geochemist and physicist currently at the University at Albany - SUNY, was the recipient of Out to Innovate's Walt Westman Award this year.

Petitioning to Rename NASA's Flagship Space Telescope

NASA's \$10 billion space telescope, to be launched in December 2021, is named after James Webb, who served as administrator of NASA during the Apollo era. This is unusual, as NASA space telescopes are more typically given descriptive names or named after scientists. Recently, astronomers have become more widely aware that Webb served in a leadership position at the State Department during the Lavender Scare, and led NASA during a time when it persecuted LGBT+ employees.

In March 2021, over 1,000 astronomers and others signed a petition asking for the telescope to be renamed, and NASA promised a transparent and thorough review of the matter by its Division of History. In October, the NASA administrator released a brief statement that the analysis (which was hobbled by COVID restrictions on access to the archives) did not produce any new evidence of Webb's culpability, that the telescope would not be renamed, and that no report would be released.

The American Astronomical Society and NASA's Astrophysics Advisory Committee are preparing responses, which could include requesting a proper public accounting of the analysis performed by NASA and the decision process that led to the decision not to rename the telescope, a fuller investigation of Webb's roles at the State Department and NASA, and a reconsideration of the name of the telescope in light of widespread disapproval by its primary users.

Member Services

The Out to Innovate member services site allows for self-serve member update and automated renewal notices. Point your web browser to www.noglstp.org/memberservices and log in to explore or update your profile, or to renew your annual dues. Of course, you're welcome to renew or join the old-fashioned way with pen, paper, and check. You can use the clip-out form in this newsletter, or fill out a downloadable form from our website. We're happy to have your support any way you want to give it!

IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP DUES?

Check your mailing label. Your renewal date is in the upper right section of your address block. Your membership number is just to the left of your expiration date. You may renew online at <https://www.noglstp.org/memberservices>, or fill out the form below (and on the other side of this page), and return it with your check to NOGLSTP, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109. You may also use this form to inform us of any address or area code changes. LAGLS members: please renew through your regional group to enjoy discounts on dues.

Membership Form

To renew your Out to Innovate membership or become a member of Out to Innovate, complete this form and send it with a check or money order (US Funds only) to:

Out to Innovate, PO Box 91803, Pasadena CA 91109.

Annual membership dues enclosed:

- \$40 for working professionals
- \$20 for post-docs
- \$10 for students and unemployed
- \$1000 for Lifetime Membership

Circle payment type:

Renewal New Info change only

Date:

Name:

Address (don't forget your zip code!):

Circle newsletter preference: print email

Your pronouns:

Telephone:

Email:

URL:

Latest Degree/Subject:

Job Title:

Employer (or school if student):

Alum of (latest degree):

Do you want your name and contact information in the Out to Innovate membership roster (to be released to other Out to Innovate members)?

Yes

No

Don't forget to fill out the other side →

NPR Podcast Shortwave: Tam O'Shaughnessy's 27-Year Partnership with Sally Ride, the First American Woman in Space

Have a listen to one of Out to Innovate's icons - Tam O'Shaughnessy, who gave the keynote speech for Out to Innovate's second summit at Georgia Tech in 2014. In the interview, O'Shaughnessy offers an intimate look at her 27-year partnership with Sally Ride: how they met, the pressures they faced as a queer couple, and their long-awaited and public coming out. You can find the podcast at <https://www.npr.org/2021/06/22/1009098412/loving-sally-ride>

New Canadian and U.K. Pilot Program to Allow Queer Men to Donate Plasma

A pilot program in the U.K. and Canada is implementing a new behavior-based screening questionnaire in select cities that will no longer explicitly exclude gay and bisexual men who have sex with men (MSM) and some trans people. The new question asks if in the last three months, donors have not had a new sexual partner and if their partner has not had sex with another partner. These new questionnaires are being used only in two donation centers—one in Calgary, and another in London, Ontario.



Membership Form (continued)

Special Techno-interests or expertise:

Please list any other professional societies that you belong to:

Are you a member of any of these groups?

- American Astronomical Society
- American Chemical Society
- American Geophysical Union
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers
- American Nuclear Society
- L'GASP Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
- LAGLS: Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
- Mathematics Association of America or American Mathematical Society
- National Postdoctoral Association
- NOGLSTP at Oklahoma State University
- NOGLSTP at Purdue
- NOGLSTP at U Nebraska - Lincoln
- PrideSTEM at Texas Tech
- Queer Science (U Minnesota)
- Queer in STEM at CSUN
- QSTEM of Lake Nona High School

For new members: How did you learn of Out to Innovate?

What would you like to help us with?

- Serve on Board of Directors
- Serve as Chair or Secretary
- Help at AAAS events
- Organize or host local event
- Write newsletter articles
- Edit the newsletter
- Speak about/on behalf of Out to Innovate at an event
- Serve on recognition awards committee
- Assist with the Mentoring Program
- Assist with Out to Innovate career summit
- Write a grant proposal
- Evaluate scholarship applications
- Help with fundraising
- Start/represent an LGBTQ+ caucus at my professional society: _____
- Don't know, but would like to help with something

ABOUT Out to Innovate

Out to Innovate (formerly NOGLSTP) is a 501(c)(3) educational organization and professional society of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, asexual, queer people, and allies employed or interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. Out to Innovate empowers LGBTQ+ individuals in STEM by providing education, advocacy, professional development, networking, and peer support. Out to Innovate educates all communities regarding scientific, technological, and medical concerns of LGBTQ+ people. Surface mail may be addressed to: Out to Innovate, PO BOX 91803, Pasadena, CA, 91109-9813. For more information, see our website at www.noglstp.org.

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Affiliates: (more info at: <https://tinyurl.com/y9kq2lps>):

500 Queer Scientists
AAS SGMA: American Astronomical Society (AAS) Committee for Sexual Orientation and Gender Minorities in Astronomy
AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers).
CSUN QueerSTEM
gAyGU (American Geophysical Union)
L'GASP: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
LAGLS: Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
LGBTQ Chemists and Allies (ACS PROF Gay and Transgender Chemists and Allies)
NOGLSTP at Oklahoma State University
NOGLSTP at Purdue
NOGLSTP at University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Diversity and Inclusion in American Nuclear Society Committee (formerly NuclearPride)
LBGTQ STEM at Oklahoma State University
PrideSTEM at Texas Tech
QSTEM of Lake Nona High School
Queer Science (University of Minnesota)
Spectra: The Association for LGBT Mathematicians
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