Lehigh hosted its first Town Hall on the Diversity, Inclusion & Equity (DI&E) Strategic Plan and Progress Measures on April 1. In the one-hour event, the first in a series of events to be held throughout the strategic plan’s five years, Vice President for Equity and Community Dr. Donald A. Outing outlined the plan’s creation, described the university’s path forward in measuring progress, and took questions from the audience. The event was held in a hybrid format, with both in-person and Zoom participation, and was moderated by Dr. Rita Jones, Director of the Center for Gender Equity. The DI&E Strategic Plan was published in October. Various campus constituents then had input into the creation of the initial progress measures, which were shared with the campus community in late March. During the town hall, Outing stressed that these progress measures are just the starting point for moving forward. The university will continue to add to these measures as needed moving forward. More information on the town hall event can be found here. The DI&E Strategic Plan can be viewed here, and the progress measures can be found here.

Lehigh’s Baker Institute is helping to tackle the issue of equity and inclusion in entrepreneurship with the launch of Rightful Inclusive Student Entrepreneurship, or R.I.S.E. It began as a grassroots effort to explore a long-time gender imbalance in student entrepreneurship on campus. Baker Institute Executive Director Lisa Getzler noticed a gender disparity in the number of students who proposed projects during EUREKA! Venture Program Pitch Nights. These monthly opportunities for students to pitch business ideas to a panel of reviewers, offer the chance to win funding, mentoring and other resources to help make these ideas a reality. Getzler noted that though fewer women pitched these projects, 50% of the Baker Institute’s EUREKA! Joan F. and John M. Thalheimer ’55 Grand Prize winners in the last 10 years have been women. And there isn’t just a gender gap; further research into participation on campus showed disparities among other underrepresented groups as well. Thus, RISE was formally announced. To read more about RISE and about some of the student entrepreneurs who are benefitting from the program, read the full news story here or visit https://www.lehighbakerinstitute.com/rise.
The Council for Equity and Community (CEC) has launched their Diversity, Inclusion & Equity (DI&E) Resources and Toolkit page that highlights DI&E initiatives, activities and resources across campus. This extensive collection of resources can be searched by name, category, and audience, and offers opportunities to engage and connect for the full Lehigh community. This site is the culmination of a process that saw CEC members polling various campus constituencies to find out what already existed on campus and getting those into an easy to use format. Explore the site here, and learn more about the CEC here.

Relive your Lehigh days, rediscover all that the university has become...REUNION 2022 is coming! Come back to campus June 9-12 for get-togethers with classmates, family-friendly activities, picnics, parades, block parties and more. Join us for the Unity Reception on Saturday June 11 from 5-7 PM. Hosted by the Black and Latino Alumni Network for Community & Equity (BALANCE), Lehigh Alumni Pride Association (LAPA) and Lehigh Asian Alumni Network (LAAN), all alumni are welcome to enjoy hors d’oeuvres, beer and wine, and fellowship with other alumni, while hearing updates from all of our affinity groups and from the Office of Diversity, Inclusion & Equity at Lehigh. Registration is required for this event, and for most other Reunion events. Visit alumni.lehigh.edu/reunion to reserve and pay online, or call University Events at 610-758-2746.
Check out Diversity, Inclusion & Equity offerings this month!

Circle of Sisters presents
Faculty, Staff, and Student of Color Mix & Mingle Event

Join us in a networking opportunity with faculty, staff, and students of color!
APRIL 27, 2022
6-8PM
LAMBERTON HALL
RSVP by April 22nd

Join Circle of Sisters for a networking event with faculty, staff and students of color! April 27 from 6-8 PM in Lamberton Hall. Dinner will be provided, business casual attire is recommended but optional. RSVP by April 22. Scan the QR code above, or email incos@lehigh.edu.

It’s almost time for Prideapalooza, The Pride Center’s signature event! Join the fun on Friday, April 22 on the STEPS Lawn and Concourse from 8-11 PM. There will be a moon bounce, spin art, arcade games, performances by queer artists and more! No need to RSVP! Please contact pridecenter@lehigh.edu with questions or for any accessibility needs.

The Center for Gender Equity presents Our Stories, Our Voices: Celebrating Lehigh women and their strength. This exhibit will be outside of Lucy’s Café in Linderman Library. An opening reception will be held on April 26 at 8 PM. Please email amca21@lehigh.edu for accommodations or with questions.

Student Senate presents Dîner en Blanc 2022! April 27th from 5-9 PM at a secret location—transportation is provided. Admission is $5; scan the QR code above to purchase. This event is semi-formal with a brown and white theme. There will be music, dancing and food! Open to students, faculty and staff.