



The Percussive Arts Society is pleased to officially announce the launch of the PAS Diversity Committee. The committee is the latest step in PAS's ongoing efforts to foster a diverse and inclusive environment, and its mission is as follows:

To promote diversity and inclusion in PAS, from the society's decision-making entities to populations served, in accordance with the Percussive Arts Society's mission to inspire, educate, and support percussionists and drummers throughout the world. To proactively create opportunities and awareness for all PAS members, with a special focus on traditionally underserved populations.

The Diversity Committee is an outgrowth of earlier advocacy efforts, and its formation was conceived and overseen by PAS Immediate Past President Dr. Julie Hill and Diversity Committee Inaugural Chair Dr. Heather Sloan, in conjunction with the 2016 PAS Executive Committee, along with the support and effort of many others.

The Diversity Committee is currently focused on the following goals:

1) Developing initiatives in support of its mission.

Diversity Committee teams have been established to work toward expanding access and fostering greater participation within PAS among traditionally underserved populations, including but not limited to people of color, women, the LGBTQA+ community, the disabled, and members with socioeconomic challenges. The Diversity Committee is also exploring strategies aimed at optimizing inclusion within established PAS community outreach activities as well as creating new opportunities for participation.

2) Adopting best practices for identifying current human resources within PAS, developing existing potentials, and measuring the progress of diversity and inclusion efforts over time as reflected in PAS membership and leadership.

3) Working with educators in grades K-12 and higher education to understand the role of learning environments as they pertain to diversity and inclusion outcomes—specifically with regard to student recruitment, retention, and success—and to explore possibilities for improving those outcomes.

Look for PAS Diversity Committee activities at PASIC 2017 and "Like" our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/PASDiversityCommittee/>