October 9, 2019

Dear Colleague:

The Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE) is charged by the United States Congress to advise the National Science Foundation (NSF) on policies and programs that encourage full participation by women, underrepresented racial and ethnic groups (African Americans, Hispanics/Latino Americans and Native Americans), and persons with disabilities within all levels of the United States’ science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) enterprise and to transmit to the Director of NSF every two years a report on its activities during the previous two years and proposed activities for the next two years.

In the recently completed 2017-18 report, CEOSE calls on NSF to increase support for place-based, implementation research projects that are grounded in and engage local communities. To realize this more integrative vision for inclusiveness in the STEM enterprise, CEOSE recommends that NSF give increased attention to including diverse community voices across its research and education portfolios through community-driven projects.

In her letter transmitting the report to Congress, NSF’s Director, France A. Córdova wrote, “By encouraging research projects in their local environments, NSF can strengthen the diversity of the Nation’s STEM workforce and promote the full inclusion of excellence across the country.”

The enclosed summary provides and overview of Investing in Diverse Community Voices – CEOSE 2017-2018 Biennial report to Congress. The full report can be found at the CEOSE website at www.nsf.gov/od/oia/activities/ceose.

Best regards,

The CEOSE Advisory Committee