

U.S. Department of Commerce Commerce and Bureau-level Affinity Groups

Commerce-wide

LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION NETWORK AT COMMERCE (LINC)

Contact: Raquel Silva (Raquel.Silva@trade.gov)

LINC was established to offer Commerce employees the opportunity to develop their leadership skills, while creating a culture of collaboration, flexibility and fairness in which employees feel engaged and empowered. In doing so, LINC ultimately becomes a mechanism for recruitment, retention, and innovation while advancing Commerce's strategic plans and operational excellence goals.

Census Bureau (CENSUS)

<https://www.census.gov/about/diversity-networks.html>

International Trade Administration (ITA)

ENFORCEMENT AND COMPLIANCE (E&C) NEXTGEN

Contact: Ecnextgen@trade.gov, <http://itacentral/myorg/ia/NexGen/default.aspx>

The E&C NextGen facilitates the development of E&C's future leaders and workforce through staff-led and senior management-approved initiatives in which staff use innovative problem solving to increase efficacy and efficiency at E&C.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

ASSOCIATION OF NIST ASIAN-PACIFIC AMERICANS (ANAPA)

Contact: anapa@nist.gov

ANAPA hosts the annual AAPI Heritage month and works AAPI SEPM to address employment barriers and concerns at NIST.

CAREGIVER GROUP

Contact: robert.norton@nist.gov

The objective of this group is to provide support, assistance, and information for employees who have elder caregiving responsibilities.

NEW (OR SLIGHTLY MORE EXPERIENCED) AND EXPECTING PARENTS

Contact: newparents@nist.gov

This group meets once a month to share hard won wisdom, tips, and tricks and catch up with your peers with young families.

NIST ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN STAFF

Contact: charles.gibson@nist.gov

This group hosts the annual Black History Month Celebration.

POSTDOCTORAL AND EARLY-CAREER ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCHERS (PEAR)

Contact: pear@nist.gov

The PEAR provide resources for career development through the transfer of information and the facilitation activities which benefit the society at large, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), and/or PEAR. Also, the PEAR aids in the integration of new early-career research staff at NIST by providing relevant information and perspectives from fellow early-career researchers. Lastly the PEAR provides an environment for communication and networking between early-career researchers in all divisions and organizational units at NIST.

STANDARDS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Contact: alumni@nist.gov

The Standards Alumni Association (SAA) was founded in 1985 in order to provide a vital link among NBS/NIST alumni. All alumni of the National Bureau of Standards and past and present employees of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, in any capacity, are eligible for membership. The SAA keeps alumni informed about current NIST activities and the challenges that face NIST in the context of the overall government and its programs. It also supports the NIST mission by collaborating on projects and activities of mutual benefit and interest. Another aim is to heighten the awareness of SAA members and NIST staff members about the richness of the NBS/NIST history, culture and research traditions. This link provides NIST employees an opportunity to renew and sustain contacts with colleagues who are no longer on the staff.

TAKE OUR DAUGHTERS AND SONS TO WORK DAY (TODSTWD)

Contact: TODSTWD@nist.gov

TODSTWD organizes the annual event to promote STEM.

TOASTMASTERS CLUB

Contact: <http://3495.toastmastersclubs.org/#null>

This club provides a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

VETERANS GROUP

Contact: Dan Cipra (daniel.cipra@nist.gov)

We are a “focus group” that meets to discuss issues and challenges facing the NIST Veterans community.

VIET-NIST

Contact: Dat Duthinh (dat.duthinh@nist.gov)

The Viet-NIST Group connects Vietnamese-American NIST employees, contractors and guests. We get together twice a year over an informal lunch to network, mentor, and exchange cultural and professional information.

VOLUNTEER CLUB NIST

Contact: robert.norton@nist.gov

The club provides volunteer opportunities for employees.

WOMEN IN STEM

Contact: WomenInSTEM@nist.gov

Women in STEM (WiSTEM) fosters the development of women in the science, technology, engineering and math professions at all career and educational levels by championing accomplishments and sharing effective technical leadership skills and best practices for career development. We are a community of NIST scientists, technologists, engineers and mathematicians that enable women in STEM professions to achieve their full career and leadership potential by cultivating a teaching, coaching and mentoring culture.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK AWARENESS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Contact: Michelle Moore (Michelle.T.Moore@noaa.gov)

The Asian Pacific American Network Awareness Planning Committee plans activities and programs to educate and increase culture awareness.

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG) – NOAA CHAPTER

Contact: Salim C. Abddeen (Salim.abddeen@noaa.gov), www.noaabig.org

The NOAA Chapter of BIG is an organization that strives to foster an environment wherein Black NOAA employees can thrive and excel, while helping NOAA achieve its mission.

DISABILITY AWARENESS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Contact: Michelle Moore (Michelle.T.Moore@noaa.gov)

The Disability Awareness Planning Committee plans activities and programs to promote education and outreach for the employment of people with disabilities.

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Contact: *Kenneth Bailey* (Kenneth.Bailey@noaa.gov)

The DIMAC was established with the primary objective to improve Agency diversity and inclusion actions and policies, to include effective integration and alignment with the Agency's mission. NOAA is committed to principles of excellence and core values of science, stewardship, and service.

DIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT WORKING GROUP

Contact: *Dana Carlis* (dana.carlis@noaa.gov), *Michelle Hawkins* (Michelle.Hawkins@noaa.gov)

The DPA WG seeks to build on the efforts of NOAA Education to attract a diverse workforce, and will focus on requirements for attracting, retaining, supporting and advancing a diverse NOAA workforce.

FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN (FEW) – SEAS & SKIES CHAPTER OF NOAA

Contact: *Nicole S. Mason* (Nicole.Mason@noaa.gov), www.few.org/few-microsite/seas-skies-chapter

The FEW Seas & Skies Chapter of NOAA promotes equality for women and acts as a forum for NOAA employees (women and men) to address issues and concerns that impact their federal careers. Efforts are focused in the areas of training, legislation, Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) compliance, and diversity.

LATINOS AT NOAA

Contact: *Ana Valentin* (Ana.Valentin@noaa.gov), *Daniel Melendez* (Daniel.Melendez@noaa.gov)

Latinos at NOAA promotes Latino employees in advancing their educational, professional, and leadership careers. The group plans activities and programs in support of the agency's mission.

LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER (LGBT) AWARENESS PLANNING COMMITTEE

Contact: *Mary Dunbar* (Mary.Dunbar@noaa.gov), LGBTPlanningTeam@noaa.gov

The LGBT Awareness Planning Group promotes LGBT employees pursuing and advancing their educational, professional, and leadership careers within the Federal Government. The Team also plans activities and LGBT awareness programs to educate and promote diversity in support of the agency's mission.

U.S. Patent & Trademark Office (USPTO)

AMERICAN MUSLIM AND ARABIC CULTURAL ASSOCIATION (AMACA)

Contact: AMACA@uspto.gov

The AMACA is committed to promoting a positive image of Muslim Americans at the USPTO. AMACA collaborates with other affinity groups to help their members thrive in a diverse environment and grow professionally. AMACA is best known for hosting Iftar, an evening meal when Muslims break their daily fast during the month of Ramadan and Eid-al-Fitr, a celebration marking the end of Ramadan.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN NETWORK (APANET)

Contact: APANET@uspto.gov, www.usptoapanet.org

APANET supports and promotes the diversity goals of the USPTO; educates USPTO employees about the diverse cultural heritage of the Asian Pacific American community through seminars and cultural celebrations; assists members with career and professional development; and fosters a working environment within the USPTO that is free of prejudice, bias, and stereotypes. APANET is known for its annual Lunar New Year dinner celebration, presenting a Diwali event to commemorate the Hindu festival of lights, and sponsoring the Piranhas — an award winning team at the annual D.C. Dragon Boat Festival.

BANGLADESHI AMERICAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ORGANIZATION (BAIPO)

Contact: BAIPO@uspto.gov

BAIPO was officially formed in February 2014. It is focused on promoting the culture of the Bangladeshi community at the USPTO.

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG) – USPTO CHAPTER

Contact: BIG@uspto.gov, <http://bigrx.org>

Established in 1982, the USPTO Chapter of BIG continues to be a supporter of the USPTO's diversity programs. BIG's goals are to promote equity in all aspects of American life, excellence in public service, and opportunity for all USPTO employees. BIG is active in the Future Leaders in America's Government (FLAG) program and a student oratorical competition.

CARIBBEAN INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ASSOCIATION (CIPA)

Contact: CIPA@uspto.gov

CIPA focuses on the Caribbean influence on intellectual property matters and the current and future impact of intellectual property on the Caribbean community. CIPA celebrates Caribbean American Heritage Month in June with many exciting events.

FEDERALLY EMPLOYED WOMEN (FEW)

Contact: Kaya.Baltimore@uspto.gov

The USPTO's chapter of Federally Employed Women (FEW) strives to improve the status of women employed by the federal government. FEW works to end sex and gender discrimination, to encourage diversity for inclusion and equity in the workplace, and for the advancement and professional growth of women in federal service.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SOCIETY OF IRANIAN AMERICANS (IPSIA)

Contact: IPSIA@uspto.gov, www.uspto-ipsia.org

IPSIA works to celebrate and share the rich Persian cultural heritage within the USPTO community. IPSIA is best known for hosting an annual Norouz Ball, a celebration of the Iranian New Year which draws more than 300 people. IPSIA also hosts events to celebrate Yalda, the longest night of the year, and Mehregan, the Persian Festival of Autumn.

LAMBDA PTO

Contact: Lambda@uspto.gov, www.lambdapto.com

Lambda PTO's purpose is to encourage, promote, and foster a positive work environment for all USPTO employees, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. Lambda PTO's primary focus is issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community. Membership is open to all USPTO employees.

NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS (NSBE) – USPTO PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER

Contact: NSBE@uspto.gov, <http://nsbe.org>

NSBE-PTO is dedicated to increasing the number of culturally responsible Black engineers who excel academically, succeed professionally, and provide a positive impact on the community. NSBE-PTO helps promote professional success by hosting brown bag sessions on topics to help patent examiners excel at their jobs. Additionally, NSBE-PTO holds fun social events, such as a bowling scramble and potluck lunches.

RESPONSABILITY

Contact: responsAbility@uspto.gov, <http://usptoresponsability.org>

ResponsAbility focuses on disability awareness and advocacy. By sponsoring activities that support disabled employees and employees with disabled family members or friends, ResponsAbility provides an important and necessary perspective among the diverse voices that make up the USPTO. Whether you have a disability or are just interested in making a difference, ResponsAbility welcomes you.

SOCIETY OF ETHIOPIAN AMERICAN ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS (SEAES)

Contact: SEAES@uspto.gov, <http://seaes.org>

SEAES celebrates the rich culture of Ethiopian Americans with the USPTO community. SEAES has brought in traditional Ethiopian dancers to USPTO events and has hosted quarterly happy hours and 'Lunch and Learn' sessions.

SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS (SHPE) – USPTO CHAPTER

Contact: SHPE@uspto.gov, <http://shpe.org>

SHPE-PTO is all about “familia” and is not just for Hispanics or engineers. It hosts social events, including lunches and happy hours, for all USPTO employees and their family members. SHPE-PTO is also committed to outreach activities to inspire and encourage local students to study science and engineering.

USPTO MILITARY ASSOCIATION (UMA)

Contact: UMA@uspto.gov, <http://ptomilitaryassociation.org>

UMA assists veterans and military family members at the USPTO and educates the USPTO community about veterans and their families who have served and made sacrifices for their country. UMA hosts events that recognize veterans, such as a “Walk of Thankful Recognition” to commemorate Memorial Day and an annual Veterans Day observance.

USPTO NETWORK OF EXECUTIVE WOMEN (USPTO NEW)

Contact: USPTONEW@uspto.gov

USPTO NEW has three goals: providing an informal support network for executive women; retaining and encouraging the next cadre of executives; and partnering with and supporting existing organizations with similar aims.

WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING (WiSE)

Contact: WiSE@uspto.gov

WiSE is committed to supporting women at the USPTO. WiSE co-hosts the annual Women in Intellectual Property roundtable discussions and sponsors regular Pearls of Wisdom lunches in which participants get a chance to meet with USPTO leaders and learn from their experiences. WiSE also hosts social events such as happy hours and potlucks.