ACSESS Adopts Diversity and Inclusion Statement

On 22 Sept. 2016, the Board of Directors of the Alliance of Crop, Soil, and Environmental Science Societies (ACSESS) adopted a Diversity and Inclusion Statement to promote ASA, CSSA, and SSSA as an inclusive agricultural, environmental, and natural sciences community, supportive of the needs of all current and future scientists in our fields. Following is the statement:

The agricultural, environmental, and natural sciences are central to understanding the interaction between the earth system and humankind and are vital to global economic and social development. As a community, it is important that we are inclusive, welcoming, and open to all members of society. Our sciences face challenges in securing the workforce necessary to meet the needs of the coming decades. To increase talent and diversity in our workforce, opportunities for more inclusive learning and professional development must be developed that enable all persons to advance academically and professionally.

ACSESS, which includes the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA) is committed to promoting educational and career opportunities to all persons through proactive efforts that engage individuals and reduce barriers to full inclusion, in accordance with any relevant national regulations. Consequently, the representative leadership of these scientific professional societies and organizations seek to embrace, empower, engage, and sustain the participation and retention of individuals within all sectors of our community.

ACSESS acknowledges and values all dimensions of diversity in our members’ and employees’ interests. Therefore, we welcome into our societies and encourage the participation of all individuals regardless of age, gender, gender identity, race, cultural background, religion, physical ability, sexual orientation, professional status, military status, geographic location and all other characteristics that make our members unique.

ACSESS actively promotes inclusion, recruitment, and retention in every aspect of the Societies—including but not limited to membership, leadership, committees, and staff. We strive to cultivate scientific Societies of excellence built on mentorship, encouragement, and mutual respect.

Coming Soon: ASA History Online

by Gary A. “Pete” Peterson

Have you ever had questions about how ASA developed into what it is today, or have you ever wanted to know more about our founders? Have you ever wanted to locate information about an ASA Fellow? Getting answers to these types of questions has prompted me to take on the role of ASA historian.

We are hoping to create a webpage that provides easy access to our ASA history. Materials that document the development of our Society and our members will be readily available. This will include a timeline of key events since our founding in 1907, historical articles and photos, and “much more.”

Now we need to know what to include in the “much more” category. This is your opportunity to help shape the new history section of our website. What kind of photos would you like to see? What kinds of stories do you want available? Are you interested in oral histories? Are you interested in helping to compile ASA’s history? We need to know what YOU want.

Please email me your thoughts and ideas at gary.peterson@colostate.edu, and we will investigate the feasibility of getting it done.

G.A. Peterson, ASA Historian

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