

**NDASFAA Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (DEI)**

**Annual Report**

**2023**

Members: Brenda Zastoupil, Chair, Melonie Bald Eagle, Kathy Lowe, Scott Skaro, Jacquelyn Zeltinger, Kirsten Pratt, Jazalyn Corley

The DEI Committee was engaged in the 2022 conference through the philanthropy project. The project called, “Loads of Love” raised supplies for The Family Crisis Shelter in Williston, in addition to cash donations. The 2022 philanthropy project, Heaven’s Helpers Soup Café in Bismarck, is accepting monetary donations to support the restaurant, which serves the poor and needy in the Bismarck area solely through donations. The DEI committee hopes to have another successful project.

In July, the committee presented to the Board to change the name of the committee from Diversity & Multi-Cultural Initiatives to Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI), which was accepted. The goal, as presented by the committee, was to:

* + Better reflect current social justice efforts.
  + Provide for broader view of diversity on campuses, among students, and within financial aid staffing.
  + Promote an equal voice and equal opportunities, reducing disparities among various demographics.
  + Engage in intentional and meaningful conversations with the membership that embrace all points of view respectfully.

Additionally, the committee presented recommendations to update committee responsibilities to reflect a more focused and intentional view of current social justice efforts, and to draw members to a call-to-action. The committee hopes to engage NDASFAA more fully by expanding membership to include at least one member from each type of institution and may be reaching out to campuses in 2023.