





Robert Ofoli, Fellows Council  
Chair

months. I strongly encourage all newly elected Fellows to get involved as soon as practicable. Your election is affirmation of your contributions to-date, and your value to our profession and our society. In other words, you have much to offer and you can begin TODAY.

We are currently living in extraordinary times fraught with many uncertainties created by the continuing challenges posed by COVID-19. Luckily, under the superb leadership of Jo Rogers, the Fellows Council has managed to navigate around the uncertainties, exercise the flexibility required to handle our responsibilities towards the Institute, and keep planning in the face of an unknown future. The uncertainties require input and participation from all Fellows of the Institute. In light of this, I believe it is important for

me to share with you the six strategic priorities of AIChE and the Fellows Council. These strategic initiatives were developed before COVID-19. However, it is easy to see how the paraphrased foci of the six strategies would enable our group of Fellows to address today's challenges with confidence.

- **Leadership:** advancement of the profession; broadening diversity and inclusion; alternative models for engagement; ability to act nimbly.
- **Communities:** strengthening of existing communities; development of new communities in emerging and underserved areas.
- **Content:** development of timely content across all delivery methods, with global reach and use of multiple media and venues; attention to industry and professional development gaps; competency assessment programs covering specific skills.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** early engagement (i.e., middle and high schools); exploration of alternative ways to becoming chemical engineers (e.g., community colleges); inclusive programs; leveraging of partnerships.
- **Societal:** utilization of our professional expertise to address issues of societal importance.
- **Transformational technologies:** development and utilization of state-of-the-art content delivery platforms; more interactive and collaborative delivery methods; development of new tools for educational training.

The six priorities provide a sound platform for effectively operating in an environment that is foreign to all of us. Our goals have not changed, but the routes to accomplishing those goals are undergoing significant transformations. Luckily, AIChE is meeting these challenges face-on. For example, the Chem-E-Car Committee and AIChE Staff have already had several meetings to develop strategies to conduct the regional spring Chem-E-Car competitions virtually. AIChE Staff is conducting strategy sessions with the Student Chapters Committee (SCC) for virtual student regional technical paper competitions and ChE Jeopardy.

As you will find later in this newsletter, the Fellows Council has been working with AIChE Staff (primarily Monica Mellinger) on a virtual gathering of Fellows at the postponed AIChE Spring Meeting. We are looking forward to "seeing" all current Fellows at this meeting as we welcome newly elected Fellows and honor those who have held this grade for 25 years or longer. I hope everyone will join us - virtually of course.

## Fellows Virtual Gathering - August 18 at 10 a.m. Central

Since there cannot be a Fellows Breakfast at the virtual AIChE Spring Meeting, AIChE and the Fellows Council have arranged a virtual gathering so we can maintain our traditions of connecting and engaging with peers virtually, honoring new and long-time Fellows, and learning more about the status of the Institute and recent AIChE programs. In addition, there will be an interactive activity as a part of AIChE initiatives in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (ED&I).

The best thing is that because we will be online, ALL Fellows are welcome to attend!

**Pre-registration is required by Friday, August 14. [Register here](#).** The event will be hosted on Zoom and a Zoom link to the meeting will be sent out beforehand to all who have pre-registered. For those attending the Virtual 2020 Spring Meeting & 16th GCPS – you will also be able to access this Zoom link through the vFairs conference platform under Networking Events.

Part of the event program includes 30 minute breakout discussions hosted by a Working Group (WG) of AIChE's Societal Impact Operating Council (SIOC) and the Fellows (see below for information about the WG). The intent is to familiarize Fellows with AIChE's ED&I initiatives and the current working climate for underrepresented colleagues, as well as to solicit ideas and suggestions for ED&I activities. The WG will collect feedback from all Gathering attendees and a variety of professionals on these topics in the coming months. This activity is the first step in an ambitious program to bring AIChE to the forefront of ED&I initiatives and practice.

The breakouts will have different themes associated with the underrepresented groups in our profession and the focus of SIOC Committees: Minority Affairs Committee (MAC), Women In Chemical Engineering Committee (WIC), LGBTQ+ Community, Disabilities Outreach & Inclusion Community (DORIC). Each breakout will have Fellow and WG facilitators. On the registration form, you are to indicate your preference for which room to participate. Assignments will be made automatically at the beginning of the activity, taking into account your preferences and the number of breakout participants.

The Fellows Council is in the process of creating the Fellows Endowment through the AIChE Foundation. The first major initiative will focus on undergraduate program support, and to do so we need to raise \$50,000. As you register for this free event, we encourage donations to help kickstart this fund. [You can donate any amount through this link](#).

The registration form also has a checklist of areas that Fellows can become engaged in to further the mission of the Institute. Please check off the areas you are interested in becoming more engaged, and the Fellows Council leadership will follow up with you to make connections.

We look forward to bringing our Fellows community together, as we “see” and connect with you online at 10 AM CDT, August 18!

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## AIChE Foundation News

### All for Good: Engineering for Inclusion

[All for Good: Engineering for Inclusion](#) is a multi-year, industrywide effort to share best practices, fund new programming and increase inclusion at every stage of the career continuum: from the classroom to the boardroom.

### AIChE Foundation Tribute to Henry T. Brown

The AIChE Foundation is deeply grateful to Gregory and Allyson, children of the late Henry T. Brown, for including AIChE in his obituary. Henry was an AIChE leader whose devotion to equity for minority engineers left a lasting imprint on the Institute, including as an early Fellow. He passed away on February 13, 2020. We greatly appreciate the \$17,000 in tribute gifts from loved ones and peers, elevating the endowment funds raised to \$181,000. Please consider donating to this important fund at [Supporting Minority Engineers](#).

**Other Foundation News** (Click the links below to learn more.)

- [The Doing a World of Good Raj and Kamla Gupta Podcast: Special COVID-19 Series](#)
- [Rising Star Virtual Workshop](#)
- [Continuing a Legacy of Inspirational Leadership Supporting Young Professionals](#)
- [AIChE Foundation Awards Grants to Five Projects](#)

## The Fellows Council

The AIChE Fellows Council oversees the organized activities of the Fellows and meets four times per year to discuss Fellow activities and policies. Two meetings are in the fall (AIChE Annual Meeting) and spring (AIChE Spring Meeting), and two are virtual, usually by teleconference in January and June; this year there was an extra telecom in August. Fellows are encouraged to contact any of the FC leaders about issues that should be considered.

### Fellows Council Activities

- [SIOC/Fellows Program for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion \(EDI\)](#)
- [There Are Many Long-Time Fellows & Recent Ones Too!](#)
- [Fellows Programming at the 2020 AIChE Annual Meeting](#)
- [Notes from Recent Virtual Fellows Council Meetings](#)

For details and making comments about these items, send email to [fellowscouncil@aiiche.org](mailto:fellowscouncil@aiiche.org).

See the full Fellows Council [roster here](#).

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## Useful Links

- [Fellows Member Directory](#)

- [Fellows Council](#)
- [AIChE Academy](#)
- [AIChE Student Chapters Near You](#)
- [AIChE Local Sections](#)
- [AIChE's Public Affairs and Information Committee \(PAIC\)](#)

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