



# NALA(STEM)

## Newsletter

April 2023

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# The NALA(STEM) polo shirt fundraiser is *LIVE NOW!*



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# Save the Date

On July 20, 2023 from 6pm-8pm CST NALA will be hosting Summer Success Summit: Professional Wellness, a virtual workshop featuring several worthwhile topics on professional wellness (plus networking!), and we would like for you to join us! Further details on this event will be forthcoming but in the meantime, please save this date in your calendar.





Get to know our Executive Staff

# Dr. Decatur Foster

Web Development Chair



How would you describe your past, present, and future in the sciences?

I have a PhD in Biology from Portland State University, where I researched the effects of environmental pollution within waterways, specifically how fish that live in the water are affected. Professionally, I am a biological science specialist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, working with education and research grants aimed towards diversifying students in STEM fields.

Of all of the sciences, why are you most drawn to biology?

To me, biology is the most innate and accessible of all sciences. It is us. It's our body. It's being curious about the things that we are made of. It is being able to understand why we breathe and how we breathe and the process that allows us to see the world around us. To me, it's like being curious about existence, and being allowed to find some of the answers. And I think that that is endlessly fascinating.

As a queer scientist, what do you think the queer community has to offer to the scientific community? What gaps do you think queer scientists, in particular, have the ability to fill?

I think it's all about perspective. I believe wholeheartedly that your life experience, your background, the knowledge and resources you've had access to or not, all of these factors shape who you become as a scientist, as well as the questions you ask and seek to answer. So the more diversity of experience we have within the people who are conducting research, the more we will learn. It seems like a pretty simple equation to me.





# GET INVOLVED!

Come join us at NALA(STEM)!  
We currently have several open  
positions.

NALA(STEM) MENTORSHIP  
COMMITTEE MEMBER

NALA(STEM) OUTREACH  
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