

Dear American Taxation Association Members,

This message is to inform you of a **proposed change to the name of our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee**. Following the AAA's recent adoption of a new framework centered on Engagement, Access, and Community, and after careful consideration by the ATA leadership, we are proposing to rename our committee the **Engagement, Access, and Community Committee**.

Justification for this Proposal

This proposed name change is driven by a desire to align with the broader vision and strategic direction of the AAA, our parent organization. As you may know, the AAA Board recently approved this new framework, emphasizing the importance of actively engaging members, ensuring equitable access to resources and opportunities, and fostering a thriving professional community. This shift reflects the evolving priorities of the AAA and its commitment to creating a more inclusive and impactful organization.

This updated title will ensure our committee's name accurately reflects the comprehensive nature of our ongoing work and aligns with the AAA's overarching principles. We believe this new name, Engagement, Access, and Community, clearly articulates our commitment to these core values.

We understand that some members may have questions or concerns about this proposed change. We want to assure you that this decision is not about diminishing our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. Rather, it is about adopting language that resonates broadly, emphasizes our proactive efforts to build a more inclusive environment, and positions our committee for long-term impact within the evolving landscape of higher education and professional organizations. This change allows us to maintain a strong commitment to inclusivity while proactively addressing potential challenges.

This proposed name change reflects the broader vision and strategic direction of the AAA and, we believe, will allow our committee to continue its important work in a way that is both impactful and aligned with the association's overall goals. We have always supported and promoted access for our members to participate and engage within the ATA community.

Voting and Next Steps

We are required to post the notice of our committee's name change for 30 days. Therefore, voting for the committee's name change will open in mid-July, and will remain open until mid-August. We will send voting instructions will be sent out to Section members once voting is open, so you can cast your vote.

Please direct any immediate questions to me at stacie.kelley@wisc.edu. I will summarize any concerns and share them with the ATA's board before its next meeting in July. Thank you for your continued dedication and engagement with the American Taxation Association. It is our members that make the ATA an outstanding organization.

Sincerely and on behalf of the ATA leadership,

Stacie Kelley, President