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Chair of AAEA Awards Committee, Co-Chair of AAEA Mentoring Workshop; awarded AAEA *Presidential Recognition Award*, and member class of 2022 AAEA Fellows.

1. What is the biggest concern/problem facing AAEA?

Women and minorities are still underrepresented in our profession despite more recognition and emphasis on the issue in the last few years. There is also still a leaky pipeline between assistant and associate professor ranks for women and minority groups. So in addition to remaining relevant and beneficial to members, I think the biggest challenge is how we can keep thinking out of the box for more ways to be open and welcoming to all types of people and ideas, and keep them in our profession. We also need to find new ways to enhance the ability of our members to interact with people and ideas not just within our field but also from other disciplines.

2. What actions would you initiate to improve the situation described in your response to the previous question?

To attract more women and minorities, we should perhaps consider developing a Summer Training and Scholarship Program to further increase diversity in the field by preparing talented undergraduates for graduate programs in agricultural and applied economics. To address the leaky pipeline issue, we need to continually develop innovative mentoring programs that will provide guidance and support in relation to career planning, work-life balance, career and family issues, networking, funding issues etc. Additionally, I would like to initiate a paper mentoring program

aimed at providing feedback to junior scholars. Sometimes, many of our early career scholars find it challenging to get feedback on their papers due to limited access to mentors and lack of resources to attend conferences/workshops. Mentee applications from women and underrepresented minorities would be highly encouraged. Selected papers will be matched to senior scholars. This would be an additional way for our senior scholars to give back by serving as a mentor for a mentee's working paper.

3. At the end of your three-year term, what changes/new initiatives would you have helped create?

In addition to what I've mentioned above, another initiative that I would like to work on with the executive board is to obtain a STEM designation for our agricultural and applied economics PhD programs. I think AAEEA, in collaboration perhaps with CFARE, should lobby to get an Ag Econ code listed as STEM. Many of our graduate students and junior members would immensely benefit from this.