Most colleges and universities embrace the ideals of diversity, equity and inclusion, but many fall short, especially in the hiring, retention and advancement of faculty who would more fully represent our diverse world.

Sharon L. Walker, Ph.D., Dean of the College of Engineering and Distinguished Professor of Civil, Architectural and Environmental Engineering at Drexel University, will discuss a successful, innovative hiring strategy that resulted in a dramatic increase of female engineering applicants – from 10 to 40 percent over just a few years – in faculty search pools.

Dean Walker developed a recruitment and retention strategy with state grant-funding when she served as interim dean at University of California, Riverside, and is now adopting and extending the effort at Drexel. This interactive webinar will provide deans with insight into the implementation process, and the opportunity to refine their own hiring practices to facilitate greater success in attracting and hiring diverse candidates.

Dean Walker is a Yale-trained chemical and environmental engineer who was appointed as dean of Drexel’s College of Engineering in 2018. Within the first year of her leadership, the College of Engineering received a 2019 Bronze Level Award from the American Society for Engineering Education’s (ASEE) Diversity Recognition Program. Previously, she served from 2016 to 2018 as Interim Dean of the Marlan and Rosemary Bourns College of Engineering at UC Riverside. Dean Walker served as co-PI for an NSF ADVANCE grant, and has been involved in diversity, equity and inclusion work since 2012. She is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), and of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP).