



June 7, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

I am proud to be the new Director of the Lunar and Planetary Institute (LPI) and to have the opportunity to build on our outstanding history of support for NASA's planetary science community. As we work together to find new ways of collaborating and interacting during this pandemic, our goal is to foster an environment that strives for equity and inclusion of all individuals, and to help all members of the planetary science community to feel safe and supported. Although we continue to face unexpected challenges and difficult choices during this time, there are positive actions we can take to promote such an environment; acknowledge historical and systemic barriers to inclusion; reject unfairness, exclusion, and injustice; and work together and support each other to achieve our aspirations in space exploration and research.

I am pleased to announce that we are launching a new LPI initiative focusing on actions to promote Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) at the LPI and within our community. We have developed a new [IDEA web page](#) dedicated to this effort that shares our plans, news, and updates. We invite the community to visit often to review our ongoing efforts and to provide feedback as we make progress.

One immediate area of focus of the LPI is our role in respecting and supporting the identities of all members of the diverse planetary science community. We heard from participants prior to the 52nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC) about the incorrect use of names and identity information. We have since worked to resolve these problems, and we have new checks in place to ensure accuracy. We are grateful to our colleagues who brought these issues and concerns to our attention.

Our current priority is to modify the meeting portal software that contributed to these problems. The result will be an improved system that enables easy updates to names and the inclusion of personal gender pronouns. Until that effort is complete, we appreciate your help in calling our attention to any errors — we will address them as quickly as possible and to your satisfaction. As we prepare for the 53rd LPSC, we welcome input on community needs and the opportunity to tailor support to ensure a productive and satisfying conference experience.

We are committed to delivering an inclusive and supportive participant experience at all of our community events. We need your help to succeed in fostering a diverse and inclusive environment for research and collaboration, and as we continue to define challenges and opportunities in space sciences and exploration over the coming decades. We thank this community for your support and remain grateful for the opportunity to serve you.

Lisa Gaddis
Director, Lunar and Planetary Institute