

Fermilab Community Advisory Board September 23, 2021 meeting

Members attending: Jim Gebhardt, Leah Goodman, Sydney Jordan, Dean Kilburg, Tim Klaus, Britta McKenna

Fermilab/DOE personnel attending: Kate Gregory, Amber Kenney, Tracy Marc, Alison Markovitz, Kim Mazur, Aria Soha, Becky Thompson, Rick Verhaagen

Welcome and Introductions

Rebecca Thompson

News from the Lab

Tracy Marc

Presentation and links to communication highlights are linked in the agenda.

Career Path of an Accelerator Operator

Amber Kenney and Aria Soha

Amber, currently the Chief Safety Officer, and Aria, currently Deputy Level II manager of installation for PIP-II, both began their careers at Fermilab as accelerator operators. Amber, who was raised in the local area and Aria who was raised 1,000 miles away began work in the Main Control Room within three weeks of each other. They both detailed their progress in various areas throughout the lab that led them to their current positions and how their experience as accelerator operators were key to that progression. Accelerator operators meet a lot of people, get to learn all about Fermilab site, know where everything is and how things work. Accelerator operators learn not just how accelerators work but the water system, the HVAC and all related systems. They become masters of troubleshooting and make long-term connections across the lab. In their time at the lab they both discovered work they enjoy and both have a strong connection to their early days at the lab.

Amber was asked some questions in her role as Chief Safety Officer.

Q - I was a summer intern at Fermilab and remember two safety classes – do you have to rework the information due to remote working?

A – When we went into curtailment we did a lot of work regarding ergonomics, working from home, the same principles apply, we do have a process where people report injuries or concern and we have developed a remote process to look at workstations at home and make sure they have what they need.

Q – If this continues, will Fermilab invest in home offices?

A – We are looking at as things evolve including having staff to identify their primary work location.

Q – Any other big concerns of safety for having people off site?

A – We have transitioned pretty well and concerns are addressed on a case by case and providing information to the lab as a whole as to what they are allowed to purchase and what can lab provide.

Q – As you were talking about the home and pivoting and does the work/home balance come into play and people working continuously or even fatigue, has that come up at all?

A – The does come up, our HR staff has done a lot to provide resources to help with work/life balance, as it can blend in together. We are working with U of C and Argonne about work/life balance and trying to provide guidance to managers and employees to make sure we meet people's needs.

Site Access

Kate Gregory

Our lab director has announced he is transitioning out of the position, after eight years as Fermilab director. The FRA board of directors is forming a search committee and Nigel will remain director for several more months.

Beginning 9/30 employees must attest to their vaccination status. Going forward, at a date specified by the federal government all employees will either need to be vaccinated or receive an approved accommodation. There also are requirements for Fermilab affiliates and users as well as for business visitors (vaccination or test).

Upcoming Events

Rebecca Thompson

Presentation is linked in the agenda.

What the Lab Should Know

All

Continued discussion regarding public site access with Fermilab and DOE personnel.