



In recent months the State of Florida has passed laws that negatively impact the progress of diversity, equity, and inclusion across society, including higher education. The passing of these laws has caused many organizations, including ABET, to pause and consider what it stands for, what kind of society it wishes to see flourish and how to respond.

This is a time for ABET to resolutely stand up for what we believe in. With this in mind, we will proceed with holding our annual symposium on April 4-5, 2024, in Tampa, Florida, as we originally planned to do back in 2018. Despite the challenges, we do this with a sense of purpose and resolve to stand up for what makes up our core values.

At ABET, we firmly believe that we can only solve the complex issues we face today by acting together to build a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable future. We believe that the future needs to welcome and encourage everyone to participate in society, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religious beliefs, abilities, age, gender or sexual orientation.

To demonstrate our values and resolve, we are partnering with [Social Offset](#), a nonprofit organization that provides a socially conscious alternative to event and destination boycotts. They will provide the opportunity for all symposium attendees to contribute to three local organizations that actively support housing security, LGBTQ+ equality and environmental sustainability in Tampa. These organizations are the [Current of Tampa Bay, Inc.](#), [Equality Florida](#), and [Keep Tampa Bay Beautiful](#). ABET will match a portion of all donations received.

We appreciate your support as we proceed to help create an equitable and just society. Please forward any questions or comments to [comms@abet.org](mailto:comms@abet.org)