

ISMETA Leadership Council Newsletter

January 2024

Dear Leadership Council Representatives,

New Year Greetings to you! We hope that this message finds you and your communities well.

During our most recent Leadership Council (LC) meeting in December, we realized that there is a communication gap that exists between ISMETA and some of the Approved Training Programs and Affiliation Professional Organizations. It seems that some of the LC representatives were not aware of a number of resources that ISMETA offers to our individual and organizational members. To address this gap, we offer a new resource: the Leadership Council newsletter! The idea is to offer a concise summary of key information that the LC organizations need to know. Welcome to the inaugural issue!

- The first and most time-sensitive announcement is that we will hold free, virtual **Open Houses** for current students and graduates of training programs on **January 10th** at two times to accommodate schedules in different parts of the world: 12 pm Eastern and 8 pm Eastern U.S. time. ***Please share the attached postcard with your mailing lists.*** The link to register (through our Events Calendar) for the 12 pm event can be found [HERE](#), and the link for the 8 pm event can be found [HERE](#). Two Open Houses will also be offered on April 10, 2024 at 12 pm and 8 pm. Registration links for those events are provided on the attached postcard.
- To address the communication gap between Leadership Council organizations and ISMETA, we will now require all organizational members to attend all four of the annual Leadership Council meetings, with the option of viewing recordings for up to two meetings per year. That is, to ensure that crucial information is shared and received effectively, all organizations must attend at least two Leadership Council meetings live and watch the recordings of the other sessions if it is not possible to attend them synchronously. The dates of the 2024 meetings, which can always be found in the Leadership Council portal [HERE](#), are:
 - Wednesday, March 13 from 12 – 1:30 PM Eastern U.S. Time
 - Monday, June 10 from 10 – 11:30 AM Eastern U.S. Time
 - Wednesday, September 11 from 12 – 1:30 PM Eastern U.S. Time
 - Monday, December 9 from 10 – 11:30 AM Eastern U.S. Time

Please enter them into your calendars now so that we maintain clear communication channels between our organizations!

- The Professional Development Center (PDC) is ready for member workshops and courses! The [Call for Proposals](#) went out on December 12 and can be found at the bottom of the landing page for the PDC.
 - All individual members (including you!) can submit proposals to teach workshops and courses. Please encourage people you know who might be interested to send us proposals.
 - If you know someone who is not a member but wants to teach, they can become a Friend of ISMETA for \$95. (A sliding scale fee is available for anyone who is experiencing financial challenges.)
 - Later this month, an invitation will go out to all Approved Training Programs to record an introductory video about the “Essential Elements” of their work to both publicize their training programs and to help define the profession of somatic movement education in the broader context of popular but vaguely defined “embodiment” and “somatic” practices.

- Our joint conference with the National Dance Education Organization (NDEO) is happening July 19 -21, 2024 in New York City. The deadline to submit proposals is February 29, 2024. You can read the details [HERE](#). The Somatic Arts and Education Committee is organizing the review of proposals. If you or anyone you know wants to be an adjudicator of proposals, please contact Kehinde Ishangi (ishangi@ismeta.org) and/or Rich Sims (r.sims@ismeta.org) by January 12, 2024.

The Equity, Justice, and Accessibility Committee has selected the theme of “accessibility” for the bi-monthly Community Conversations in 2024. All are invited to attend! The upcoming dates for these gatherings are: January 12, March 8, May 10, July 12, September 13, November 8 at 10:30 am Eastern U.S. time (with the possibility of shifting the time to accommodate any interest in Australasia if that arises). The registration link for the January 12 event (through the Event Calendar on our website) appears [HERE](#).

- Rich Sims, Elisabeth Osgood-Campbell, and Nirvan Ananda will collaborate to write the Annual Report for 2023 including the total number of new members for the past year. In the meantime, here are the totals of new members we welcomed between July 1 and December 1:
 - 38 Registered Somatic Movement Educators and/or Therapists(with 500 hours of training)
 - 3 Associate Somatic Movement Professionals (with 250 hours of training)
 - 2 Master Somatic Movement Educators and/or Therapists(with 1,000 hours of training and significant contributions to our profession through publication, university teaching, research and/or embodied praxis)
 - 33 Student members
 - 3 Friends of ISMETA
 - 3 Approved Training Programs

We hope that this succinct summary of news will help you stay informed about all of the offerings that ISMETA makes to members. *Additionally, if you do not receive our monthly newsletter for the general public (which includes interesting graphics to complement the exciting news that we share), please sign up for that [HERE](#).*

Thank you for serving as leaders in our field by offering your valuable work to the world. We look forward to strengthening our communication channels and continuing our collaborations with you to grow our profession together!

With appreciation,

Elisabeth Osgood-Campbell, Executive Director and Nirvan Ananda, Managing Director

International Somatic Movement Education and Therapy Association

[OpenHousePostcard.pdf](#)