The Michigan AGEP Alliance Fall Conference will be held on Saturday September 15, 2018, and features interactive tracks that explore different stages of the Ph.D. journey and faculty career development including starting with applying into graduate school.

This activity is most appropriate for undergraduate students nearing the graduate school application process, graduate students and post-docs at all levels of their respective careers as well as faculty looking to advance their mentoring skills. The Conference will be held at the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel in East Lansing, MI. Enclosed are the biographies of the preliminary list of speakers. For more information, please visit [https://grad.msu.edu/AGEP/conference](https://grad.msu.edu/AGEP/conference) or call the MSU AGEP Program Manager, Steven Thomas at 517-432-3268.

**Keynote Speaker for Plenary Talk 12:45-1:45 PM**

**Dr. Rita Fields: University of Michigan-Flint**

Dr. Rita Fields is a faculty member at the University of Michigan School of Management in Flint, Michigan and an adjunct professor of healthcare administration at Central Michigan University. Dr. Fields offers expertise on human resources and strategic business issues through Copper Phoenix Consulting, LLC and is the CEO of 313 Industries, a CNC machining and milling corporation. Dr. Fields is actively engaged in social justice issues within her community, serving as a consultant on both local and national societal issues. Dr. Fields worked at the senior executive level in the healthcare industry for 10 years and in corporate America for two decades. Dr. Fields is a member of the Society for Human Resources Management (SHRM), and a SHRM Certified Senior Professional of Human Resources (SHRM-SCP), and a lifetime member of the National Association of African Americans in Human Resources (NAAAHHR). She serves on the Institutional Standing Committee on Campus Diversity and Inclusion (ISCDI) at Madonna University, as a Dissertation Advisor in the PHOD Program at Assumption University in Thailand, as a spokeswoman for the Center for the Education of Women at the University of Michigan and as a member of the EDA University Center for Regional Economic Innovation (REI) at the MSU Center for Community and Economic Development.

In both 2010, 2011 she was selected to serve as a United States delegate with SHRM to explore human capital issues in both China and Brazil. She was selected to be a presenter at TEDxDetroit in 2015. In 2016 she was honored with a Women’s History Month Careers Mastered Leadership in Action Award. In 2017 she was a featured speaker at the Detroit Policy Conference sponsored by the Detroit Chamber of Commerce. In 2018, she was selected to be an Innovation Fellow for the Center for Regional Economic Innovation and she was also selected to serve as a reviewer for the Robert Woods Johnson Culture of Health Leaders fellowship. She is a sought-after speaker for both her expertise in workplace culture and her transparent commitment to sharing her story of struggle and resilience.
Saturday Morning Sessions 10:45 AM-11:45 AM

“Graduate School Expectations”: This panel will discuss how a student can prepare a competitive application and how they can leverage their undergraduate experiences as well as how to avoid common mistakes during the first years of graduate school.

Richard Whittington: Tuskegee University

Dr. Richard Whittington is the HBCU-Up Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research (OUR) and Assistant Biology Faculty at Tuskegee University. In addition, he is a talented photographer, scuba diver, and has been coordinator of several enrichment programs for young people. He obtained his academic success by attending the historic Tuskegee University (BS, MS) and Auburn University (PhD). Dr. Whittington has an extensive background in science and research, working in clinics and laboratories since high school. The majority of Dr. Whittington’s teaching experience was acquired at Pellissippi State Community College and Tuskegee University. For more than ten years, he has taught courses such as Cell and Genetic Biology, Organismal Biology, and Microbiology at both institutions. His love for nature led him to volunteer with various organizations, including Fisheries Conservation Inc. and the Montgomery Zoo. Making time to give back to his community, Dr. Whittington is an active part of the Macon County Civilian Club, Black Belt Community Foundation, and Tuskegee United Women’s League Inc. Dr. Whittington developed his skill for working with young people through his involvement with GROW CELLS, Project GRAD Knoxville, AMACHI Leadership Foundation, Southeast Science Partnership, Fast Track Science Camp, and Science America Camp.

Dahlia Petrus: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Dr. Dahlia Petrus is the Program Manager for Recruitment for the University of Michigan’s Rackham Graduate School (U-M) and has empowered underrepresented students for the majority of her professional career. A first generation college student, Dahlia earned both undergraduate and graduate degrees at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. With an extensive professional work and academic history at U-M, Dahlia has worked in both academic departments and student and academic affairs. She served as Lecturer for Afro-American and African Studies and the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, Academic and Student Affairs Administrator, Program Director and Manager, and Academic/Pre-Professional Advisor. A former Mellon Foundation Fellow and NYU Press Academic Researcher, Dahlia is also recipient of awards such as U-M’s Professional Women of Color and is currently is part of a digital humanities initiative documenting the life of the American writer James Baldwin.
Dr. Paul Guèye received his Bachelors and Master's degree in Physics and Chemistry from the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, Senegal. He then moved to France to pursue a Ph.D. thesis in Nuclear Physics from the University of Clermont-Ferrand II. Dr. Guèye joined the nuclear physics group of Hampton University in 1995. Dr. Guèye was the Chair of the Physics Department at Hampton University from 2015-2018, the 2013-2015 President of the National Society of Black Physicists, the 2017-2018 Executive Director of the MoNA Collaboration at NSCL/FRIB, the Chair of the Liaison Committee for Under-represented Minorities of the American Institute of Physics from 2014-2017 and a member of various national and international advisory committees on physics and physics education.

Dr. Guèye is a strong advocate of K-12 education. He has established and leading several programs focusing on pre-college students with various federal and non-federal organizations that includes the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, NASA and National Radio Astronomy Observatory amongst other. He was recognized for his work by President Barack Obama in 2015, and is now a new faculty member of Michigan State University with an appointment with the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory/Facility for Rare Isotope Beams.

“Getting the Mentorship You Need”: This panel will provide a fun opportunity for mentees to learn about themselves, about their expectations and how they can get the most from their mentoring relationships.

Christina Campbell: University of Cincinnati

Dr. Christina Campbell is currently an assistant professor in the School of Criminal Justice at the University of Cincinnati. She earned a Ph.D. in Community Psychology at Michigan State University and a postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Psychiatry, Division of Prevention and Community Research at Yale University. Her primary research interests include delinquency prevention, risk assessment, juvenile justice policy, and neighborhood ecology. She has also conducted research on racial and health disparities experienced by individuals who come in contact with the criminal justice and child welfare system, child welfare policy, juvenile sex offender assessments, and prisoner reentry. Her goal as a researcher is to focus on applied interdisciplinary research that influences policy change and improves the quality of services for underserved marginalized populations who come in contact with the criminal justice and child welfare system. Her work has been published in various peer review journals which include Criminal Justice and Behavior; Child and Youth Services Review; Journal of Offender Rehabilitation; Journal of Traumatic Stress; Psychology, Crime and Law; Journal of Juvenile Justice; Corrections; and Youth Violence and Juvenile Justice. She has received funding support for her research from the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institute on Drug Abuse, and the National Science Foundation. She has recently received funding support from the National Institute of Justice for her grant titled "The Influence of Race/Ethnicity on Disparities in Correctional Dispositions: Examining How Risk Assessment and Neighborhood Socioeconomic Context Affects Sentencing Decisions of Adjudicated Juveniles". She is a member of the American Psychological Association, Society for Community Research and Action, American Society of Criminology, and the Racial Democracy, Crime & Justice Network.
Jerry Caldwell: Michigan State University

Dr. Caldwell earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical (A&T) State University. He pursued graduate studies in biotechnology at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, Illinois, and earned Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology from the University of Michigan. His doctoral thesis research was in the area of molecular and cellular hematology in the Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology. After completing his doctorate he remained at the University of Michigan for a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Pediatrics and Communicable Diseases, Division of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology from 1994-1997. In 1997, he joined the faculty of the Department of Biological Sciences at Wayne State University, and in 2005 became a senior lecturer in the Honors Program at Wayne State. In 2007 Dr. Caldwell became director of the Charles Drew Science Scholars program in the College of Natural Science at Michigan State University. The Drew Scholars program supports the well-being and academic success of a diverse population of science and math students at Michigan State. From 2011-16, Dr. Caldwell served as executive director of the Michigan Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (MI-LSAMP), a National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored consortium of 15 Michigan colleges and universities.

Carleitta Paige-Anderson: Virginia Union University

Dr. Carleitta Paige-Anderson is an Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Dean of the Virginia Union University (VUU), University College. In this capacity, she is responsible for ensuring that all newly matriculating students are fully immersed in the university’s history, culture, and core values, as well as cultivating an academic environment that affords students a strong foundation for success. Previously, she served as the VUU Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR) Director, where she developed and implemented the full scope and framework to increase student engagement in research and creative inquiry endeavors. Since 2010, Dr. Paige-Anderson has worked diligently to integrate research skills into the academic curriculum and catalyze the use of this pedagogical practice to all campus disciplines. As an infectious disease biochemist, she has used her background in studying pathogenic bacteria as a basis for teaching basic science principles. She piloted this novel teaching paradigm at Universitas Airlangga in Surabaya, Indonesia as a 2013-2014 Senior Fulbright Scholar.

Her commitment to student success and VUU is very personal. As a VUU alumna, Dr. Paige-Anderson participated in the Minority Access to Research Careers (MARC) Program, sponsored by the National Institutes of Health, as an undergraduate student. She attributes her professional success to the experiences afforded by the MARC program and believes that all students can benefit from similar opportunities. Dr. Paige-Anderson earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Wake Forest University, completed a post-doctoral research appointment at the Johns Hopkins University in the Center for Tuberculosis Research, and has on two independent occasions served as the faculty-lead for Department of Homeland Security Summer Research teams. She is known for her optimistic outlook on life, and her passion for serving others. She attributes her success to the unwavering support of her husband and son.
Deborah Willis: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Dr. Deborah S. Willis is a Program Manager for Professional and Academic Development at the University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School. She produces a wide array of innovative professional development programs to engage and enrich a highly diverse academic community. Dr. Willis is passionate about empowering graduate students and developing them as leaders, as well as recognizing them for their efforts. She recently established and leads the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Professional Development Certificate Program which is focused on expanding the competencies of graduate students related to DEI and preparing them to work in a global workforce.

Throughout her career, Dr. Willis has been committed to establishing and implementing programs to facilitate the professional development and career advancement of graduate students, post-doctoral scholars, staff and faculty. Prior to her current role, she coordinated the Women of Color in the Academy Project (WOCAP), a campus-wide faculty network at the University of Michigan, and was devoted to highlighting the work of women of color scholars, promoting their development, creating a supportive and inclusive community, and advocating for institutional change on their behalf. She is familiar with AGEP as she worked with the University of Michigan AGEP program for several years, coordinating and developing initiatives for graduate students that would assist them in attaining their doctoral degrees and making successful career choices. Dr. Willis holds a PhD in Sociology from the University of Michigan.
**“Becoming a Faculty Entrepreneur”:** This panel discussion will be an introduction to different aspects of faculty entrepreneurship. Topics for discussion will include technology transfer, commercialization of academic research, consulting, and book publication.

**Abdifatah Ali:** University of Minnesota

Dr. Abdifatah Ahmed Ali is an Assistant Professor of Work and Organizations in the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. His research interests comprise of three main areas: (1) understanding how individuals with stigmatized identities make sense of and communicate about those identities across different stages of the employee-organization relationship, (2) workplace diversity and inclusion with an emphasis on establishing equitable employment opportunity practices and cultivating inclusive workplaces that facilitate learning and integration of differences, and (3) how motivation and emotions shape behavior in organizations. His work has been published in research outlets such as Journal of Applied Psychology; Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: An International Journal; and Personnel Assessment and Decisions. Abdifatah teaches courses at the undergraduate and graduate level that focus on organizational behavior and diversity management. He has worked in several consulting roles for both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Abdifatah received his Ph.D. and M.A. in organizational psychology from Michigan State University and an undergraduate degree in psychology from San Diego State University.

**Dana Spence:** Michigan State University

Dr. Dana Spence is a Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering in the Institute for Quantitative Health Science & Engineering at Michigan State University. He is also Associate Chair for Graduate Studies within the BME department. He received his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry under the guidance of Dr. Stan Crouch in 1997 and has been a faculty member at Saint Louis University and Wayne State University. The Spence group, housed in the Institute for Quantitative Health Science & Engineering (IQ) at MSU, currently has 4 core projects under investigation. Broadly defined, these projects are in the fields of (1) diabetes, (2) multiple sclerosis (MS), (3) blood banking, and (4) drug discovery. Various enabling technologies from the 3D-printer are employed, with an emphasis on 3D-printed devices with integrated membranes. Dr. Spence is also the founder of LifeBlood, a biotech startup whose main focus is MSINDx, a rapid test for diagnosing MS.
Dereck Skeete: Medgar Evers College

Dr. Dereck Skeete is an accomplished leader, educator and mentor for students in Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines. He has a Doctorate in Environmental Science, a Master's Degree in Environmental Pollution Control, with Concentration in Water Quality and Pollution Control, and a Bachelor's Degree in Mathematical Physics, with concentration in Mathematics from the City University of New York. Dr. Skeete has more than 20 years of experience as an educator and a mentor. He has been a part of the Medgar Evers community for more than 22 years. During this time, he has spent most of his time teaching Chemistry and Environmental Science while involved with different research projects. Additionally, he has spent 2 years serving in an administrative position as the Dean of Student Affairs where he worked to establish a culture to help students take responsibility for their actions and develop their leadership skills, and the Dean of Enrollment Management. His love of science and mathematics is always to the fore of all that he does, in that his classroom motto which he learned from one of his undergraduate professors is to “feed hungry minds.”

Meseret Nagash: Michigan State University

Meseret Nagash is the Director for Development for The Graduate School at MSU. She is charged with developing, leading and providing strategic direction to an advancement program that will include major gift fundraising, leadership annual giving and alumni engagement. Prior to joining The Graduate School, she was Managing Director of Global Strategic Partnerships at the James R. Jordan Foundation International a Chicago based global foundation. In philanthropy for 15 years, Meseret served as a Senior Vice President of External Affairs for a scholarship foundation, where she was responsible for designing and convening partners for a $100 million dollar scholarship program. Strategic Partnerships developed throughout her career are with the Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago Cubs, Northwestern Memorial Hospital, and Institute for the International Education of Students, National Medical Association, Stanford University and UN Foundation.

Ms. Negash has worked in the communication arena in broadcast television for NBC and BET News in the Public Affairs Department and for the U.S. Senate. She is a graduate of Michigan State University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and a Masters of Arts in Communication Policy and MBA. She also received Executive Education Fellowship in Fundraising & Non-profit Capacity Building from Northwestern University, Kellogg School of Management,
“**Academic Job Searching**”: This workshop will cover how a graduate student or post-doc should approach searching, applying, interviewing and negotiating faculty positions at different academic institutions.

**CharMaine Hines**: Wayne County Community College

CharMaine Hines, Ed.S. is the Associate Vice Chancellor of Adjunct Faculty and Curriculum at Wayne County Community College District. She received both her M.A. (Organizational Communication) and an Ed.S. (Educational Leadership) from Eastern Michigan University. A King/Chavez/Parks Future Faculty Fellow (1994), she has over twenty-one years of experience in higher education as a lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences and administrator in both the Division of Educational Affairs and Student Affairs. CharMaine "embraces teaching and working in higher education as an opportunity to inspire and empower students through transformative learning".

**Jonathan Livingston**: North Carolina Central University

Dr. Livingston received his doctorate in Community Psychology and, prior to attending Michigan State, he received a Master’s in African and African American psychology at Florida A&M University. His areas of interest are African American psychological well-being and the cumulative effects of racism and social inequalities on African America mental health and health disparities. Additional areas of interest include program evaluation, community development, and education reform. Also, he has served as director of Outreach for the Export Grant, a project of the Julius Chambers Biomedical Bio-technical Research Institute, evaluating the effectiveness of their efforts to reduce health disparities and educate the African American Community about alcohol and substance abuse; cancer and cardiovascular disease risk factors.

He has also served as Co-Director of the North Carolina Central University Institute for Children Youth and Family. Currently he serves as lead research faculty for the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and is a Senior Research Fellow at Johnson C. Smith University, Smith Institute for Applied Research. He is also currently Co-principal investigator for the NCCU/UNC LCCC Outreach Core of the National Cancer Institute effort to reduce and prevent cancer health disparities in racial and ethnic minorities. Also, while at NCCU he has assisted in securing over 20 million in grant money from federal and state agencies.
Lilly Lavner: Associated Colleges of the Midwest

Lilly Lavner is the Liaison for the Fellows Program to Diversify the Professoriate at the Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM). In her current role, Lavner works closely with colleagues across the 14 ACM colleges and the Big Ten Academic Alliance universities to provide undergraduates with the knowledge and resources to successfully apply to and navigate graduate programs, and to provide information to graduate students about working at liberal arts colleges. Lavner also helps to plan and execute professional development opportunities for faculty and staff at ACM colleges that explore complex barriers to diversity and equity that may impact hiring processes (such as unconscious bias) and that provide individuals with the tools to better understand and take steps to intentionally build inclusive practices and environments for all.

Debra Charlesworth: Michigan Technological University

Dr. Debra Charlesworth grew up in southeast Michigan before heading across the Mackinac Bridge to pursue a bachelor’s degree in Mechanical Engineering at Michigan Technological University. She completed her graduate work in Biomedical Engineering at Northwestern University, where she investigated polymeric composite materials to improve total hip replacements. In her current role as Assistant Dean in the Graduate School at Michigan Tech, Dr. Charlesworth supports the professional development of graduate students and postdocs through a variety of activities. In her spare time, she ice dances with her husband and enjoys the natural beauty of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

David Arnosti: Michigan State University

Dr. David Arnosti is a Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at Michigan State University. His laboratory studies gene expression in the context of development, using the model system Drosophila melanogaster. Currently director of graduate studies in Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Arnosti teaches graduate-level classes on gene expression, and supervises an active NIH-funded research laboratory. He has served on numerous faculty search committees at Michigan State University and writes many letters of support for faculty tenure decisions. He received his bachelor's degree from Lawrence University in Wisconsin and his doctoral degree from University of California-Berkley. Afterwards, he had two post-doc appointments at the University California-San Diego and the University of Zurich.
Saturday Afternoon Sessions 2:50 PM-4:00 PM

“Developing a Teaching Portfolio & Philosophy”: This seminar will discuss how a graduate student or post-doc should prepare a teaching philosophy statement and portfolio as well as how they can leverage their teaching assistant experiences.

Pamela Martin: Prairie View A&M University

Dr. Pamela Martin, a native Texan, is a full professor in the College of Juvenile Justice and Psychology. Before coming to Prairie View A&M University, she served for two years as the Chair in the Department of Psychology at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). At NCCU, she instituted the department’s branding message and the use of social media to help the department’s green efforts. She also increased the number of undergraduate and graduate students participating in research. Starting her academic career at North Carolina State University, she was the first African American female tenured in the Department of Psychology in 2009. For her outreach efforts in the Raleigh-Durham areas in 2008, Dr. Martin was inducted into the Academy of Outstanding Faculty Engaged in Extension and Engagement at NC State University. She holds a B.S. in Psychology from University of South Carolina, M.A. in Psychology from North Carolina Central University and a Ph.D. in Ecological/Community Psychology and Urban Studies from Michigan State University.

After completing her graduate training, Dr. Martin was a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Programs for Research on Black Americans at the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan. Influenced by ecological theory, Dr. Martin is interested in examining the person-environmental fit between social institutions such as churches and behavioral outcomes. More specifically, her research investigates the role of theology in shaping the daily experiences of African Americans. Dr. Martin seamlessly integrates her extension and engagement efforts with her teaching and research.
“Strategies for Navigating the Dissertation”: This seminar is ideally suited to graduate students who are about to enter into the dissertation process or who are still in the course work or comprehensive examination stage of their respective Ph.D. programs but would like access to information that anticipates the dissertation. Moreover, the seminar will be very useful to students who are already writing the dissertation but who may be experiencing difficulty in the writing process, in negotiating with their faculty committees, or who are simply struggling with the demands of the doctoral educational process and feel they are not making progress.

Emma Flores-Scott: University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

As a scholar of teaching and learning in graduate education, Emma is dedicated to supporting a diverse graduate student community by creating opportunities for students to connect across disciplines. In addition to providing strategic direction in the areas of recruitment and graduate student engagement, she continues to directly support Rackham Merit Fellows throughout their time at Michigan. She has also been involved with the Michigan Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate; Rackham’s Faculty Committee on Mentoring (MORE); Bridges to the Doctorate; and Faculty Allies for Diversity. Prior to coming to Rackham in 2014, Emma was a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Washington Graduate School. Emma earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership and Organizational Policy from the University of Washington, her Master’s in Counseling from the University of New Mexico and her B.A. in psychology and education from Swarthmore College.
“Persistence and Financial Planning for Graduate School”: This panel will cover psycho-socio factors (mentorship, TA growing pains, funding, networking, etc.) that influence the success of first-year graduate students.

Meg Akehi: Michigan State University

Meg Akehi works for MSU Counseling and Psychiatric Services and is currently working on her PhD in Higher, Adult and Lifelong Education (HALE) at MSU. She has almost 20 years of experience working with college students and young adults dealing with life transitions, grief, interpersonal relationships, conflict resolution, spiritual identity development, depression and anxiety. In addition to providing counseling, Meg is also available as a consultant for individuals and organizations concerning mental health issues, team dynamics, conflict resolution, leadership development and personal development. She is also available to provide workshops on various topics to large and small groups. Topics include conflict resolution, spiritual growth, personal growth, improving interpersonal relationships, and team building.

Jennifer Gomez: Wayne State University

Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez, Ford Fellow, received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology in 2017 from University of Oregon. Dr. Gómez is a postdoctoral fellow in the Wayne State University Postdoctoral to Faculty Transition Fellowship Program. She is a co-editor of two special issues of Journal of Trauma & Dissociation: Self Injury & Suicidality- The Impact of Trauma & Dissociation (2015) and Discrimination, Violence, and Healing in Marginalized Communities (2018-21). Her work has been published in peer-reviewed journals, books, scholarly newsletters, and newspapers. In proposing cultural betrayal trauma theory (CBTT), Dr. Gómez incorporates interpersonal trauma in conjunction with discrimination to examine mental health outcomes in Black and other minority populations. For CBTT, Dr. Gómez received the American Psychology Association Division 56 Award for Outstanding Dissertation in the Field of Trauma Psychology. Research in cultural betrayal trauma theory has implications for informing culturally competent mental healthcare for minorities who experience both trauma and discrimination. 


Lea Ammerman: Michigan State University Federal Credit Union

Ms. Lea L. Ammerman has been Executive Vice President of Member Services at Michigan State University Federal Credit Union (MSUFCU). Ms. Ammerman has worked for MSUFCU since August 2002 and served as its Vice President of Branches. She has 25 years of financial services experience. She serves on the MSU’s Weekend MBA Alumni Association Board of Directors and also on the Advisory Board of Directors for Junior Achievement of Mid-Michigan. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration from Northwood University and Master's Degree of business administration from Michigan State University.
Richard Aló: Florida A&M University

Dr. Richard A. Aló is the Dean of the College of Science and Technology and Professor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences at Florida A&M University. Prior to joining FAMU, he was a dean at Jackson State University and he was a Program Director in Directorate for Education and Human Resources at the National Science Foundation. Before attending graduate school, he was a Retrofit Systems Test Engineer for the Command, Control and Interoperability tasks of the US Air Force’s Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) System at MIT’s Lincoln Laboratories. He earned his MA and Ph.D. in Mathematics with minor in Computer Science from the Pennsylvania State University, followed by one year Lecturer position. He was a member of the mathematics faculty at Carnegie-Mellon University for 11 years followed by six years as Department Head of Mathematics and Computer Science at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas. In 1982 he was appointed Professor of Computer and Mathematical Sciences at the University of Houston Downtown and served as Chair of the Department of Computer and Mathematical Sciences until 1995. From 1995 to 2010 he was Executive Director for Grants/Contracts at UHD raising over $30 million in sponsored projects. Also from 1995 to 2012 he was Executive Director of the Center for Computational Sciences and Advanced Distributed Simulation at UHD. He has served on several advisory and executive boards: the Mathematical Association of America’s SUMMA Committee (Support for Undergraduate Minority Mathematics Awareness); the MAA’s Curriculum for Undergraduate Program in Mathematics (1979 through 1992), ACM/IEEE Computer Society Joint Curriculum Committee (1989-1992); Association of Departments of Computer and Information Science and Engineering at Minority Institutions (ADMI, a founding member), Coalition for Diversity in Computing (CDC, past Chair and a founding member); and Houston International Dance Coalition (brings ten to 12 international modern dance companies per year to Houston for the week long Dance Salad Festival, (President 2000- present). www.dancesalad.org. As part of the NSF Science and Technology Center for Research on Parallel Computation (1990-2000) at Rice University, he founded and directed the South Central Computational Science in Minority Institutions Consortium.