



# 2020 AGEP Student Success Conference

## Speaker Lineup

Creating a Vision for a Greater Tomorrow  
through Research

Greeting Colleagues,

The AGEP Student Success Conference will be held on Friday October 23-Saturday October 24, 2020, 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 a great opportunity 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. This is also a great opportunity for individuals hoping to apply for employment in academia. The Conference will be held virtually. Enclosed are the biographies of the preliminary list of speakers. For more information, please visit <https://grad.msu.edu/AGEP/conference> or call the MSU AGEP Program Manager, Steven Thomas at 517-432-3268.



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## Culturally-Responsive Mentoring

This workshop will focus on skills on how to build a research team and current research trends around mentoring. This event will be valuable for any graduate student, post-doc, faculty member or community leader interested in developing their skills in cultural sensitivity as well as the creation of inclusive environments and work teams.



### **Christine Grant: North Carolina State University, National Science Foundation**

Christine obtained her degrees in Chemical Engineering (Sc.B., Brown University; M.S. and Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology). A Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular engineering at NC State (now in her 31st year), she's conducted research in surface and interfacial science. As the inaugural Associate Dean of Faculty Advancement in the College of Engineering, for over 12 years she's been responsible for faculty development, special initiatives and promotion and tenure for the college. A Life Member of AIChE, SWE, AISES, she is an AIChE Fellow and a candidate for national President. A recipient of the AAAS Mentor Award and the NSF Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM); Grant's been recognized for broadening the participation,

promotion and retention of underrepresented minorities (URM) and women in STEM. She has been a Visiting Senior Scholar at AAAS and a Grant Expert at NSF. A change agent, she has been active as a PI on multiple NSF ADVANCE grants and served on the advisory board or consulted with several ADVANCE schools including Texas A&M, Cornell, Lehigh, U of New Hampshire and the University of Cincinnati promoting institutional transformation in STEM fields. She has been a speaker at numerous NSF AGEP and MRSEC programs. She has received over \$5 million in NSF funding in the REU, ADVANCE, CBET, and GOALI programs. She is currently serving as a Program Director in the Broadening Participation in Engineering Program at NSF. In the BPE realm, she has co-edited the book, "Success Strategies from Women in STEM: A Portable Mentor" by Elsevier/Academic Press and contributed chapters to "Growing Diverse STEM Communities: Methodologies, Impact and Evidence" (2019) and "Overcoming Barriers for Women of Color in STEM Fields" (2020).



### Health Disparities in Minority Communities and Intervention Strategies

This panel will discuss some of the complex reasons why minority groups, especially African-Americans are dying in higher rates due to COVID-19. This event will be valuable for any graduate student, post-doc, faculty member or community leader interested learning about what role can academics play in the positive shaping of policy as well as how has the public health profession is evolving now.



#### **Paul Elam:** Michigan Public Health Institute

Dr. Paul Elam serves as MPHl's Chief Strategy Officer. He is responsible for aligning the priorities of MPHl with national interests as well as diversifying the Institute's portfolio to address cutting edge issues that affect the health and well-being of our society. His past leadership includes mentoring and training professionals from historically underrepresented groups with evaluation expertise in the areas of child welfare and juvenile justice. His deep understanding of youth violence and prevention, crime and justice, and child maltreatment is nationally recognized. Dr. Elam brings a wealth of knowledge and experience measuring racial and ethnic disproportionality and believes that sound public policy analysis should include an examination of whether all people are being treated fairly and equitably. Dr. Elam works closely with governmental, philanthropic, university, and nonprofit clients, providing strategic consultation to advance decisions in ways that improve lives, advance social justice and produce equitable outcomes. Prior to becoming the Chief Strategic Officer at MPHl, Dr. Elam was also the President at Public Policy Associates, Inc. as well as the Director of Safety and Justice. Dr. Elam was also a McNair/SROP Scholar at Michigan State University where he would later earn his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and doctoral degree and Family & Child Ecology.

## Saturday Morning Sessions

10:45 AM-11:45 AM ET

### 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.



#### **Alexandra Colón-Rodríguez: University of California-Davis**

Dr. Alexandra Colón-Rodríguez is a first-generation Puerto Rican neuroscientist. She obtained a dual major Ph.D. in Comparative Medicine and Integrative Biology, and Environmental Toxicology at Michigan State University. Currently, Dr. Colón-Rodríguez is a postdoctoral scientist at the University of California, Davis. She has a hybrid position in which she is devoting fifty percent of her time to developing a science communication training program for faculty in collaboration with the University of California, San Diego. The other fifty percent is focused on investigating how single parenting is changing the brain's main emotional center, the amygdala, on the single parent and their offspring.



#### **Tayo Moss: Michigan Health Endowment Fund**

Dr. Tayo Moss is the Program Manager of the Nutrition and Healthy Lifestyles program for the Michigan Health Endowment Fund. His main interests focus on reducing food deserts in urban and rural areas, as well as affecting policy through health diplomacy. Tayo previously served in the Michigan House of Representatives as a Policy Advisor, in which he advised legislators on challenges affecting a variety of statewide issues such as health insurance and transportation. Before working in the legislature, Tayo has previously gained experience in policy and grantmaking by serving as a Contract and Grant Analyst for Michigan State's Contract and Grant Administration. Tayo also serves on the Board of Directors for Uplift Our Youth Foundation, which provides grants and sponsorships to empower youth to achieve success and live healthy productive lives. Tayo has a bachelor's degree from Ferris State University, and a M.S. and Ph.D. in Kinesiology from Michigan State University.



#### **Allen Linton II: Associated Colleges of the Midwest**

Allen Linton II is the Director of Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives for the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Allen works to manage and execute all aspects of the Mellon-funded Faculty and Undergraduate Fellows Program for a Diverse Professoriate, while also coordinating with ACM staff and campus-based colleagues to ensure that all current and future ACM programs promote equity and inclusion for students, faculty, and staff. He is currently a doctoral candidate in political science (concentrating on American politics) at the University of Chicago.

## Graduate School Expectations (cont.):



### **Ellis Tibbs: Dual Degree Student**

Ellis Tibbs is a 6th year MD/PhD student at the University of Maryland-Baltimore School of Medicine. Ellis was born and raised in St. Louis, MO and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Biological Sciences with honors with a minor in Philosophy from the University of Missouri-Columbia. Ellis is in his fourth year in the Molecular Microbiology and Immunology Graduate Program at UMB, currently investigating novel roles of Granzyme B in the context of tumor immunology. With the ultimate goal of becoming a clinician-scientist and practicing in a similar under-represented area where he was raised, Ellis hopes to also help continue fostering the desire to pursue a career in health professions through establishing pipeline and mentoring programs. Ellis was also a Michigan State University Summer Research Opportunities Program participant in 2012.



### **Kimberlei Richardson: Howard University College of Medicine**

Dr. Kimberlei Richardson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Pharmacology at Howard University College of Medicine. She earned her undergraduate (BS, Chemistry) and graduate degree (PhD, Pharmacology) from Howard University. While conducting postdoctoral training at Johns Hopkins and the Medical University of South Carolina, she developed an interest in neural mechanisms that affect motivated behaviors. Currently, her laboratory at Howard has two major focuses: 1) exploring neuropeptide regulation of binge eating and drug seeking and 2) exploring how neuropeptide regulation and the gut microbiota influence foraging behavior. She has been awarded grants from the National Science Foundation, National Institutes of Health, Charles and Mary Latham Foundation, and the Center for Hemoglobin Research in Minorities. She

has also served as an Ad hoc reviewer for the National Institutes of Health. She has received several awards in recognition of her accomplishments in research and was selected as a Forty Under Forty Prince George's County Leader. In addition to teaching, service, and research, she has trained and mentored numerous undergraduate, graduate, and medical students at Howard. She is passionate about increasing the number of African American students who pursue careers in biomedical research. She loves mentoring and enjoys interacting with her students. She believes that she has learned as much from them as they have learned from her. She has also volunteered as a motivational speaker in the Prince George's County School system and serves as Chair of the Scholarship Review Board for Kingdom Citizens Youth Empowerment, Inc. (based in Prince George's County, MD).



## Strategies for Navigating the Dissertation:

10:45 AM-11:45 AM ET

This seminar will focus on how to make the dissertation writing process smooth and will address issues such as negotiating with faculty committees, and making progress despite the demands of the doctoral educational process. Though this seminar is ideally suited to graduate students who have entered or are about to enter the dissertation process, graduate students at other stages of their programs will get valuable information about academic writing in general and anticipated experiences with the dissertation.



### **Caryn Reed-Hendon: Lawrence Technological University**

Dr. Caryn Reed-Hendon is the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at Lawrence Technological University. At LTU, she is responsible for the daily operations of the Office for Diversity & Inclusion, in support of the President's office, the Dean of Students office, and University Human Resources. Prior to her role at Lawrence Technological University, she was employed at the University of Michigan-Dearborn where she served as Assistant Director for Orientation Programs for over five years and for ten years as Director of Diversity & Inclusion at the Oakland University William Beaumont School of Medicine (OUWB). She has twenty years of higher education experience specifically in the area of Student Services. She has served on a number of professional educational committees and has worked collaboratively to

present materials at regional and national conferences. Dr. Reed-Hendon obtained her Bachelor of Arts Degree from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and her Master of Arts Degree from Eastern Michigan University. She earned her Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Oakland University in 2013.



### **Jamil Scott: Georgetown University**

Dr. Jamil Scott is an assistant professor of Government at Georgetown University. She received her doctorate from Michigan State University in Political Science and her bachelor's degree from University Maryland, College Park in Psychology and Government & Politics. She is a past recipient of the King-Chavez Park Future Faculty Fellowship as well as co-PI on a grant from the New America Foundation. She has published in Politics, Groups, and Identities and American Politics Research. She is currently working on her book length manuscript in which she seeks to understand Black women's political emergence in state level politics.



### **Marena Wilson-Pham: Rush University Graduate College**

A Dr. Marena Wilson-Pham, PhD, earned her BS in Biology at Dillard University in 2002 and her PhD in Microbiology and Molecular Genetics at The University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in 2007. Following her graduate education, she completed two postdoctoral fellowships at MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Wilson-Pham then joined the MD Anderson UTHealth Graduate School (GSBS) in 2013 to assist in improving the recruitment and retention rates of underrepresented minority students through implementation of retention and bilateral recruitment programming. As the Assistant Dean of Diversity and Alumni Affairs, she was responsible for strategic planning and implementation of diversity and recruitment programs, management and support of student organizations, and alumni engagement and programming. Currently, Dr. Wilson-Pham is Assistant Professor and Associate Dean at Rush University Graduate College with a purview over academic affairs, curriculum, and admissions.

## Social Media Branding Techniques:

10:45 AM-11:45 AM ET

This panel will discuss how audience members can communicate their research and professional advancement to broader audiences using social media



### **Jamal Watson: Trinity Washington University**

Up until recently, Dr. Jamal Watson was the executive editor of *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*, where he also served as a senior staff writer and editor-at-large for the publication. He is currently a consultant and contributor to *Diverse* and has joined the faculty at Trinity Washington University in the nation's capital as a professor and director of the Graduate Program in Strategic Communication and Public Relations. Dr. Watson is a graduate of Georgetown University; and received a Master's degree in Journalism from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. He earned a Ph.D. in Afro-American Studies from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. An expert on media and higher education issues, Dr. Watson is a sought-after speaker and commentator on issues related to diversity, equity and inclusion.



### **John Hill: Network Catalyst**

John is the Network Catalyst for a company that dreams big, global and accelerates the growth of tech companies. Techstars is a mentorship driven seed stage investment program. To date, hundreds of companies have gone through the Techstars accelerator, and John is charged with supporting and growing a global network of tech entrepreneurs, mentors and investors who surround them and the Techstars team. As a speaker, John often implores others to have the audacity to "Dream Big"! Hill traded one passion for another which led him to leave Michigan State University to become the Higher Education Evangelist at LinkedIn. And, then one more time moving from LinkedIn to become the Network Catalyst for Techstars. Hill believes "changing the world" can be more than hyperbole. Building relationships and connecting people with opportunity are at his core, and he relies heavily on

online and offline networks to facilitate each.



### **Nykiera Hill: Oakland University**

Nykiera currently works at Oakland University as a Social Media Coordinator. In this position working with key leaders on campus to build student engagement. While also working with other departments to help maintain their social media presence, marketing and branding them to unify all social media channels. She continues to help push campus messaging, student campaigns and marketing initiatives to the community. Nykiera makes sure that every student initiative makes all students feel included and belong at the University.



## Social Media Branding Techniques (cont.):



### **Alexis Kerr: Cadillac**

As Cadillac's Head of Multicultural Marketing, Alexis Kerr leads the organization's efforts to increase opinion, consideration and market share amongst diverse consumers. She also manages Corporate Social Responsibility and Music efforts; which are directly aligned to the brand's global marketing strategy. Previously, the New York native served as the luxury brand's Head of Operations for "BOOK by Cadillac" at the New York City global headquarters. "BOOK by Cadillac" was the first-ever mobility start-up in the industry's subscription service space. In 2016, she was asked to create and lead the Customer Experience team in General Motors Middle East Operations, managing Dubai's expansion of culture throughout the entire organization. Moreover, this experience led to her to training the dealer body of eight Middle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia. Most recently, she was responsible for managing and leading the creative agency

execution of the 2021 Cadillac Escalade reveal short film with Academy Award Winning Filmmaker, Spike Lee. Prior to joining General Motors, Alexis managed a Business Development portfolio at Delphi exceeding \$750m. Kerr holds an undergraduate degree in both Engineering and Computer Science. She also holds an MBA in Marketing. In her personal time, she enjoys jewelry making, blogging and traveling internationally. Kerr is also very active and passionate about wellness, community and youth.

## Developing Community Engaged Research with Global Impact

During this session, panelists will discuss strategies to build community-based research, communicate broader impact, and how to create international collaborations.

10:45 AM-11:45 AM ET



### **Ashlee Barnes-Lee: Michigan State University**

Dr. Barnes-Lee started her academic career as an undergraduate student at Michigan State University (MSU) where she earned a B.A. in Psychology and a B.A. in Criminal Justice. Given her interest in the experiences of justice system involving youth, she worked as a juvenile justice practitioner in multiple agencies across Lansing and metro Detroit prior to entering graduate school. She completed doctoral studies in Ecological-Community Psychology at MSU in 2017. In August 2017, she accepted a tenure-track position in criminal justice at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) where she continued building her research program. Ashlee's research program broadly focuses interrelated areas of research include: (1) designing strengths-based approaches to offender assessment and rehabilitation and (2) developing and testing interventions that aim to eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in school-based disciplinary practices. After nearly three years at VCU, her desire to conduct

research in the Detroit area led her to apply and accept a position as a Research Associate in the School of Social Work at MSU. In this role, she continues to build her research and teaching portfolio by collaborating with school administrators who desire to prevent delinquency and promote positive youth development.

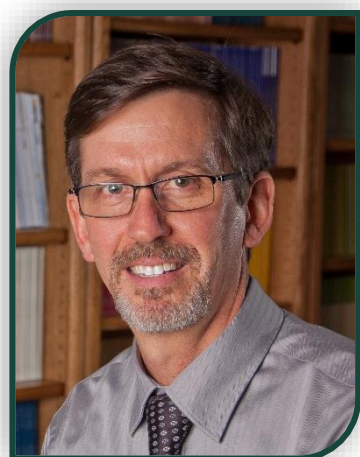
## Developing Community Engaged Research with Global Impact (cont.)



### **Rebecca Jordan: Michigan State University**

Dr. Rebecca Jordan joined the Department of Community Sustainability as chair in August 2018. Her research focuses on understanding how individuals' reason with scientific data. In particular, she seeks to understand how individuals generate and test explanations for complex phenomena. Dr. Jordan has worked with several audiences (e.g., grade 6-12 students, undergraduate and graduate students, and the public involved in citizen science) to test general research questions about causal reasoning with regard to individual decision-making in environmental contexts. After receiving her B.S. in the Biological Sciences with focus on Psychology, Dr. Jordan received her PhD and Master's Degrees in Organismal Biology at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Following her time in Massachusetts, Dr. Jordan has completed postdoctoral fellowships at

Princeton University in New Jersey and at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Prior to joining the department, Dr. Jordan was a faculty member at Rutgers University in New Jersey.



### **Miles McNall: Michigan State University**

Dr. Miles McNall is the Director for Community Engaged Research in the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship at Michigan State University. Miles has 23 years of experience with the evaluation of health and human service programs. He coordinated the evaluation of HIV prevention programs for young men at the University of Minnesota Medical College and supported the development of client outcome monitoring systems for agency programs at Catholic Charities of Chicago. At the CORE Center in Chicago, he evaluated HIV/AIDS care and substance abuse treatment programs and coordinated the agency's healthcare quality improvement efforts. At Michigan State University, Miles and his colleagues have conducted evaluations of comprehensive community initiatives, school-

based health centers, and intensive home-based treatment services for children with severe emotional disturbances. In recent years, Miles has been involved in the evaluation of systems change initiatives, including efforts to transform early childhood and youth mental health systems in several Michigan communities. Miles has been a member of the Michigan Association for Evaluation (MAE) since 2006 and is the President of MAE. In addition to his role as an evaluator, Miles supports faculty in the conceptualization, design and evaluation of their Broader Impacts activities for National Science Foundation proposals.

## Keynote Speaker for Saturday Afternoon

12:00 PM-1:20 PM ET

### Creating a Vision for a Greater Tomorrow Through Research



#### **Brian D. Lozenski: Macalester College**

Dr. Brian D. Lozenski is an assistant professor of urban and multicultural education in the Educational Studies Department at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He received his doctorate from the University of Minnesota where he studied the cultural contexts of teaching and learning. His research explores the intersections of critical participatory action research, black intellectual traditions in education, and cultural sustainability in the education of youth of African descent.

Prior to pursuing his Ph.D., Dr. Lozenski taught for over a decade in Philadelphia, PA and St. Paul, MN. As a teacher educator and researcher, he has worked with other educators, parents, schools, and districts to develop perspectives and strategies that aspire toward social justice while illuminating the historical realities that have created current educational disparities. He has publications in educational research journals such as Harvard Educational Review, Review of Research in Education, and Equity & Excellence in Education, among others.

Dr. Lozenski holds deep commitments to a community-engaged research framework where academic researchers follow the lead of community members and organizations to identify prevalent issues that can be addressed through an inquiry-based approach. In this effort he is affiliated with organizations such as the Network for the Development of Children of African Descent, the African Diaspora Consortium, the Education for Liberation Network, Minnesota Campus Compact, and the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Teachers College, Columbia University.



## Saturday Afternoon Sessions

2:50 PM-4:00 PM ET

### Persistence & Financial Planning for Graduate School

This panel will cover psycho-social factors (e.g. mentorship, TA growing pains, networking, mental health, etc.) and financial concerns (e.g. funding, budgeting, insurance, etc.) that influence the success of students.



#### **Martez Burks: Michigan State University**

Dr. Martez Burks is currently a psychologist in the Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) Department at Michigan State University. He also completed a Doctoral Internship with CAPS as a Pre-Doctoral Intern, working with students throughout the 2018-19 academic year. He completed his master's degree in and doctoral degrees in Counseling Psychology at Tennessee State University in 2019. Dr. Burks also has experience as a Clinical Case Manager and Mental Health and Substance Abuse Therapist at Meharry Medical College from 2010 to 2012.



#### **Tony Nunez: Michigan State University**

Dr. Nunez received a Ph.D. in Neuroscience from Florida State University in 1977. After a one-year appointment as Lecturer at Bowling Green State University he was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to do research on the neural and endocrine control of energy balance at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. In 1980 Dr. Nunez joined the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience Program at Michigan State University (MSU) where he moved through the ranks and where he currently holds the title of full Professor. He has served as Associate Chair and Director of Graduate Programs in Psychology, as Acting Director of the Neuroscience Program, and in 1999 he took the position of Associate Dean in the Graduate

School of MSU. His current title is Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Post-doctoral Training. Dr. Nunez' research is in the areas of neuroendocrinology and chronobiology. His laboratory has been funded over the last 40 years by research grants from several NIH institutes and from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Dr. Nunez has over 100 scientific peer-reviewed publications, many of them with graduate and undergraduate students as co-authors. He is the recipient of the MSU Teacher Scholar Award and of the Florida State University Doctoral Graduate Award of Distinction and is a Fellow of the Association for Psychological Science.



#### **Ami Iceman-Haueter: MSU Federal Credit Union**

Ami Iceman-Haueter is the Assistant Vice President of Research and Digital Experience at MSU Federal Credit Union. Iceman-Haueter specializes in research, communications, and the creation of engaging digital experiences. Iceman-Haueter graduated from Michigan State University with her bachelor's degree in Advertising, specializing in Public Relations, and was part of the first "graduating" classes for the New Media Driver's License program. She actively attends conferences and specialized programming in the areas of Digital Experience and Customer Experience to expand her knowledge base and follow industry trends. Alongside the team at MSUFCU, Iceman-Haueter works to support the evolution of member experience practices within the organization.

## Academic Job Search

2:50 PM-4:00 PM ET

This workshop will cover how a graduate student or post-doc should approach searching, applying, interviewing and negotiating faculty positions.



### **Gina Sánchez Gibau:**

#### **Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis**

Dr. Gina Sánchez Gibau is Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion and Associate Professor of Anthropology in the IU School of Liberal Arts at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis. She earned a Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin, specializing in the African Diaspora. Her research interests include racial and ethnic identity development, multicultural pedagogy, and professional development and advancement of underrepresented groups in higher education. She conducted fieldwork on identity formation among Cape Verdeans in Boston, MA. For her efforts to study and promote diversity on campus, she was recognized by the IUPUI Black

Student Union with the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. “Advocate the Dream” Award in 2008. She is a 2013 alumna of the Higher Education Resources Services (HERS) Bryn Mawr Leadership Institute. In 2015, she received an IUPUI Outstanding Women Faculty Leadership Award and in 2017, she participated in the IU Executive Leadership Institute. In her current role, Gibau is responsible for providing strategic vision to academic units in support of their efforts to attract, recruit, retain, and advance a more diverse faculty at IUPUI. She works collaboratively with deans and chairs as well as with the Graduate School to enhance the pathways toward diversifying the faculty and promoting inclusive excellence at IUPUI. She is the current co-director of the IUPUI Next Generation 2.0 program, a leadership and professional development initiative for women and underrepresented faculty and staff. She is also Co-PI on an ADVANCE adaptation grant, Project EPIC and the IUPUI Team Lead for the APLU Aspire Alliance IChange Network initiative.



### **Sherine Obare: North Carolina A&T State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro**

Nanoengineering at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She is also a Full Professor of Nanoscience at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She received a B.S. in Chemistry from West Virginia State University, obtained a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of South Carolina, and was a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Postdoctoral fellow at the Johns Hopkins University before beginning her academic career. Obare was an Assistant, Associate and Full professor of Chemistry at Western Michigan University (WMU) from 2004-2014. In 2015 she became the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Arts and Sciences at WMU. In 2016-2018, she served as WMU’s Associate Vice President for Research. Obare is an Environmental Chemist whose research focuses on the detection and remediation of environmental contaminants as well as understanding the fate, transport and toxicity of anthropogenic nanomaterials. She serves as the Program Chair for the

American Chemical Society’s Division of Environmental Chemistry and is also Chair-Elect for the Division (2020-2022). She has published over 100 articles. She is the co-editor of two new books titled “Green Technologies for the Environment” and the “Power and promise of Early Research”. She has trained over 100 students in her laboratory and is the recipient of the 2009 IUPAC Young Observer Award, the NSF CAREER award, and the NSF Division of Materials Research American Competitiveness and Innovation (ACI) Fellowship. In 2013, Obare was named as one of the top 25 Women Professors in Michigan. In 2019, she was elected as Fellow of the American

Chemical Society. The Triad Business Journal recognized Obare as a Triad Power Player in 2019, and as an Outstanding Women in Business in 2020.



**Pero G. Dagbovie: Michigan State University**

Pero Gaglo Dagbovie is University Distinguished Professor in the Department of History and Associate Dean in the Graduate School at Michigan State University. A member of the university's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Steering Committee and Strategic Planning Steering Committee as well as the College of Social Science Dean's Advisory Board for Diversity and Inclusion, much of his work focuses on planning and implementing the Graduate School's goals related to diversity and inclusion. He is the author of six books and his most recent book, *Reclaiming the Black Past: The Use and Misuse of African American History in the Twenty-First Century*, was published by Verso Books in November of 2018. A lifetime member of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, he is the

Editor of *The Journal of African American History*, the oldest and leading journal devoted to scholarship on African American history. Active in public history, he served as a scholar consultant for the permanent exhibit, "And Still We Rise: Our Journey through African American History and Culture," at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan. He has participated in and lead numerous "teaching history" workshops and summer institutes for secondary school history teachers supported by the U.S. Department of Education, the Michigan Department of Education, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Dr. Dagbovie actively mentors graduate students and in the past dozen years, he has served as the advisor of more than 15 graduate students who have earned doctoral degrees and are now working in academia. During the 2018-2019 academic year, he was a member of the Michigan State University Presidential Search Committee and was a Fellow in the Big Ten Alliance Academic Leadership Program. He is currently the Michigan State University National Steering Committee representative for the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society that was founded at Yale University.



## Becoming a Faculty Entrepreneur

2:50 PM-4:00 PM ET 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.



### **Katrenia Reed Hughes: Indiana State University & Passion 2 Purpose, LLC**

Dr. Hughes, known by her students and clients as “Dr. K”, has a Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D) from Indiana State University, and an MBA in Leadership from Butler University. Katrenia’s life mission is to help others put their Passion to Purpose. Her consulting firm, Passion 2 Purpose, LLC - provides STEM program evaluation, executive coaching, team development, performance assessment, and strategic planning offerings. Dr. Hughes has had the honor of being invited to deliver keynotes on a variety of topics in her areas of expertise. In her most recent corporate role, she was an Enterprise Learning & Development Partner at OneAmerica in Indianapolis. She has over a decade of experience teaching college students and 10 years working in corporate Organizational Development. While at Indiana State University, Katrenia had an opportunity to teach undergraduate psychology courses such as Abnormal Psychology and Human Sexuality - serving as the Human Sexuality course

coordinator, Katrenia led a team of graduate teaching fellows. Results of her passion for teaching was recognized with an Educational Excellence Award in the College of Arts and Sciences, at Indiana State University.



### **Patricia Simon: Yale School of Medicine**

Patricia Simon, Ph.D. is a faculty member in the Division of Prevention and Community Research at Yale School of Medicine. She is also Director of Innovation to Impact at Yale, the nation’s first and only NIH-funded entrepreneurship training program focused on substance use researchers and Co-Director of Yale Center for Digital Health. Funded through a \$1.25 million grant from the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Innovation to Impact will provide comprehensive entrepreneurship education to approximately 150 scientists over 5 years. In previous years, the trainees have come from 30 institutions across the U.S., Canada, and Russia. The Center for Digital Health supports the development of digital therapeutics seeking FDA clearance. Dr. Simon’s research program focuses on the prevention of substance use and high school dropout among racial minority and low-income adolescents. Active lines of research include epidemiological studies of adolescent tobacco use

(especially e-cigarette use), development of digital treatments for adolescent smoking cessation and development of other digital health innovations. Dr. Simon is the elder of two daughters born to two immigrants from Haiti. From her parents, Dr. Simon learned to value charity, integrity, and education. In her spare time, Dr. Simon enjoys running and photography. Dr. Simon’s approach to life is based on her unwavering belief that to whom much is given, much is required. This approach earned her the Farmingdale Board of Education Community Service Award and the Duke University William J. Griffith Community Service Award.

## Becoming a Faculty Entrepreneur (cont.)



### **Jennifer Carter-Johnson: Michigan State University**

Dr. Carter-Johnson focuses her interests on intellectual property law and policy. She combines her scientific and legal training to investigate issues at the intersection of biological research and the law. Carter-Johnson was a visiting faculty fellow at Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Missouri, from 2008 until she joined Michigan State University College of Law in fall 2010. Prior to that, she practiced law in Seattle, Washington, specializing in intellectual property licensing and representation of biotechnology companies. Professor Carter-Johnson graduated with highest honors from Union University with a B.S. in mathematics and biology. She then received her law degree with honors from the University of Michigan Law School, where she was an articles editor and symposium coordinator of the Michigan Law Review. She earned her Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Virginia, where her research concentrated on immune system development. A member of the Washington State Bar, she is registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Carter-Johnson's publications include "The Shifting Landscape of Patent

Licensing," *BioPharm International* (2007); "Lack of the Tyrosine Phosphatase SHP-1 Causes an Enrichment of CD4+CD25+ Regulatory T Cells," *The Journal of Immunology* (2005); "Cutting Edge: Dependence of TCR Antagonism on Src Homology 2 Domain-containing Protein Tyrosine Phosphatase Activity," *The Journal of Immunology* (2003); and "The Tyrosine Phosphatase SHP-1 Influences Thymocyte Development by Setting TCR Signaling Thresholds," *International Immunology* (1999).

## Grant Writing Success Tips

2:50 PM-4:00 PM ET

During this session, panelists will cover how to identify Request for Proposals (RFPs), build effective grant-writing teams, and communication with grant program directors.



### **Marva Goodson-Miller: Vanderbilt University**

Dr. Marva Goodson-Miller is a postdoctoral research fellow in the Department of Sociology at Vanderbilt University. She earned her B.A. in psychology (2011) and M.S. (2014) and Ph.D. (2019) in criminal justice from Michigan State University. Marva's research uses network science to study the ways in which justice-involved women construct their personal social networks, and how those network constructions are related to women's access to resources and reoffending patterns. Her dissertation research was supported by the MSU College of Social Science, NASEM Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, King-Chavez-Parks Future Faculty Fellowship, and the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. Her research has been published in multiple journals including *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology*, and *Feminist Criminology*. During her time at MSU, she co-founded Youth Advancement Through Athletics (YATA), a multifaceted youth

development program that incorporated athletics, mentorship, career-driven activities, and community service, to provide targeted, strength-based interventions for students attending a court-run high school. During the six years of operation, the project developed more than 75 18-month interventions for Lansing youth, was awarded multiple grants, received awards from the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, and trained nearly 100 MSU undergraduate students. Currently, her research at Vanderbilt University is focused on justice-involved women's experiences accessing resources during COVID-19 (i.e., PPE, testing sites, housing support) and whether they engage with pandemic politics (i.e., political attitudes and voting behaviors). Marva is passionate about conducting research that informs policy and improves the lives of justice-involved populations.



## Grant Writing Success Tips (cont.)



### **Rickey A. Caldwell Jr: Merrimack College**

Dr. Rickey A. Caldwell Jr received his B.S Mechanical Engineering (1999), M.S. Mechanical Engineering (2011), and Ph.D. Mechanical Engineering (2016) from Michigan State University located in East Lansing, Michigan. While at Michigan State University Dr. Caldwell held a graduate assistantship (GA) in the Diversity Programs Office within the College of Engineering. He was active in MSU AGEP and other programs. Dr. Caldwell has been employed in the automotive industry as a consultant and at various federally funded research and development centers (ffrdc) including Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory and The MITRE Corporation. Currently, Professor Caldwell is a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts. Professor Caldwell has applied to and has

been awarded several grants. Most recently he and his team were awarded a 1 million-dollar NSF S-STEM grant.



### **Alexandra Thomas: Rush University Graduate College**

Dr. Alexandra Thomas received her B.A. in Biology and Chemistry from St. Olaf College and her Ph.D. in Cancer Biology from Northwestern University. As a graduate student, she was awarded the NIH Ruth L. Kirschstein National Research Service Award (F31) award to investigate targeted therapeutics for triple negative breast cancer in the laboratory of Dr. Jacqueline Jeruss. As a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she continued to explore targeted therapies in the context of colon cancer metastasis and pancreatitis with Dr. Barbara Jung. Dr. Thomas contributed to multiple Research (RO1) applications as well as Training (T) and Career Development (K) awards in addition to writing manuscripts and book chapters on gastrointestinal cancers. Currently, Dr. Thomas is an assistant professor at Rush University

Graduate College. She is the designated Grant Educator and works to help students identify appropriate funding sources and apply for grants and fellowships. She teaches Introduction to Grantsmanship and runs various science communication workshops.



## Saturday Closing Remarks & Awards

4:20 PM-6:30 PM

Closing remarks will be made by Dr. Kelly Mack and MSU Program Director Steven Thomas. Best presenter awards will be given at this time. This is a great time to connect with recruiters and listen to our live performance by La Shaun 'Phoenix' Moore.



### **Kelly Mack: Association of American Colleges and Universities**

Dr. Kelly Mack is the Vice President for Undergraduate STEM Education and Executive Director of Project Kaleidoscope at the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). In this capacity, Dr. Mack provides leadership for the organization's mission level commitments to quality and inclusion through the delivery of world class professional development aimed at empowering our nation's finest STEM faculty to competitively train and educate more STEM students. Prior to joining AAC&U, Dr. Mack was the Senior Program Director for the National Science Foundation ADVANCE Program while on loan from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore where, as a Professor of Biology, she taught courses in Physiology and Endocrinology for 17 years. Recognized as a national thought leader in higher education, Dr. Mack's work has been highlighted in Diverse Magazine and U.S. News and World Report. Currently, she is an advisor to several institutional transformation initiatives at NSF-funded ADVANCE

institutions, as well as other national STEM reform collaboratives. She is also co-founder and chair of the board of the Society of STEM Women of Color, Inc., and has served as member of numerous board and national committees. Dr. Mack earned the BS degree in Biology from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and, later, the PhD from Howard University in Physiology. Most recently, her research efforts have examined STEM leadership development and the impact of mindfulness on STEM faculty self-efficacy.



### **La Shaun 'Phoenix' Moore: Detroit Symphony Orchestra**

La Shaun phoenix Moore is a Detroit-based vocalist, spoken word artist, activist, culture creator and wife. Moore's work is infused with her love for the city of Detroit, hip-hop, social justice and love of mankind. As a spoken-word poet and poetry host, Moore has had the wonderful opportunity to share stages with many national and local acts including The Last Poets, Saul Williams, Jamaal May, Franny Choi, Nandi Comer, Tommye Blount and Natasha T. Miller. She was the five-year host of the ByteThis Poetry Series. Moore sat on the Executive Council for Poetry Slam, Incorporated and served as the Event Coordinator of the national poetry slam events Women of the World Poetry Slam and Individual World Poetry Slam. Since 2018, Moore has coached the InsideOut Detroit Youth Poetry Slam and Performance Troupe Teams. Moore currently curates a spoken word and music event with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and is working on her first memoir exploring the complexities of her relationship

with her mother.

# What is AGEP?

The Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (**AGEP**) is a National Science Foundation program that supports recruitment, retention, and graduation of underrepresented U. S. minorities in doctoral programs of the natural and social sciences, mathematics, and engineering. Undergraduates, graduate students, post-docs, and faculty who participate in building the AGEP Community at MSU rise to meet the challenge of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion at U. S. colleges and universities, by nurturing and developing world-class STEM and Social, Behavioral and Economic sciences faculty members who fully reflect the diversity in race, gender, culture and intellectual talent of the U. S. population.

## National Need

The United States faces a growing demand for a highly educated science and engineering workforce. The annual number of Black, Hispanic, and American Indian citizens earning a PhD must quadruple in order to contribute the science and engineering talent necessary for the U.S. to become self-reliant.

## AGEP at Michigan State University – Impact

The AGEP Community represents 75% of doctoral students at MSU who are Black, Hispanic or American Indian citizens that in NSF sponsored departments. Ninety percent of the AGEP Community graduate student participants complete an advanced degree. Over the past 10 years, the AGEP Community has grown from six graduate students in 2006 and faculty to over **250** participants annually with over **400** alumni nation-wide.

The Community began with support from NSF, and AGEP has become a self-sustaining component of the matrix of graduate student support provided by the MSU Graduate School. A cross-disciplinary AGEP Learning Community of graduate students and faculty meets monthly; discusses active research by participants using everyday language; and considers current topics of regional and national importance for public policy. AGEP is a proven strategy for diverse recruitment, retention, and persistence in graduate education. The AGEP Student Success Conference hosted by MSU is cross-disciplinary experience, full of scientists, engineers, social scientists, policy makers and community leaders and students.

For more information, visit us at:

MSU AGEP website: <https://grad.msu.edu/agep>

MSU AGEP Program Director: Steven Thomas, [deshawn@grd.msu.edu](mailto:deshawn@grd.msu.edu)

Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the individual presenters and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

