



## AGEP Community Engages with New Members

EAST LANSING- Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018: Michigan State University hosted its monthly AGEP Community Meeting in room 228 of Erickson Hall. Over 40 participants from the AGEP Community as well as graduate school faculty and staff were in attendance. Steven Thomas, program director of AGEP gave welcoming remarks before giving the floor to moderator, John Tran, Doctoral Student in Plant Biology.

The evening began with an introduction for new members describing the AGEP Community and its impact on MSU's campus. Next, Mr. Tran introduced the AGEP Steering Committee and how to become a member. After that, community announcements were given to the audience. The announcements included job opportunities, information on newly available fellowships, and important dates for upcoming research conferences.

The next phase of the meeting held the Chalk Talk presenters for the night. Alshae' Logan, a Graduate Student in the Microbiology and Molecular Genetics Department, gave a presentation titled, "*The role of cyclic-di-amp in Cyanobacteria*". Her presentation discussed different facets of cyclic dimeric GMP and how it pertains to her current studies. Kesicia Dickinson, a Graduate Student in the Political Science Department gave the second and final Chalk Talk of the evening. Her presentation titled, "*Who is Stacey Abrams?: An Examination of Gender and Race Dynamics in State Level Candidacy*" covered a variety of findings regarding how race and gender can have an impact in a minority candidates' campaign. Ms. Dickinson's research was so intriguing that she was asked a plethora of inquiries that branched out into an insightful group discussion around the room.

As the meeting came to a close, AGEPers were seen reflecting on the Chalk Talk presentations and getting to know others fellow members in the room. When asked her thoughts on the meeting, Chelsie Boodoo, a new member and first year Post baccalaureate student in the Department of Engineering had to say this, "I enjoyed the meeting a ton. I even got the chance to meet and network with a few people in my department that I did not previously know before the meeting." She added, "AGEP at MSU continues to show me how strong of a community they have on campus and I am glad to be a part of it".

The February AGEP Community meeting proved to be yet another productive and successful gathering. For more information about the AGEP Community at Michigan State University, contact Steven Thomas ([dehsawn@grd.msu.edu](mailto:dehsawn@grd.msu.edu)) at 517-432-3268.