



Alliance for Graduate Education & the Professoriate
affiliate of the Michigan AGEP Alliance

466 W. Circle Dr.
Chittenden Hall Rm. 130
East Lansing, MI 48824

MSU Represents AGEP at ERN 2015

EAST LANSING, Michigan, March 3 2015—Hundreds of student researchers from around the nation visited Washington, D.C. for the 2015 Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The ERN Conference was held at the Washington Hilton hotel and is sponsored by AAAS Education and Human Resources as well as the NSF Division of Human Resource Development.

Undergraduate and graduate students showcased their findings and networked with professionals and recruiters at this annual event. Over the course of the conference, AGEP students and post-docs encouraged the undergraduate attendees to continue their studies, and exposed them to graduate school opportunities at MSU. AGEP participants contributed to the conference as both recruiters and presentation judges.



(Left-Right) Rodney Singleton, Abdifatah Ali and Cameron Herman, MSU AGEP graduate students at ERN Conference

“The keynote speaker for the ERN Conference, Dr. Ainissa Ramirez - the ‘Science Evangelist,’ is a great model for moving research into the public imagination,” said Cameron Herman, graduate student in the MSU Sociology department. He also stated, “It’s important to form populist support and engagement with science. If the people are aware of the benefits, it helps to build our case in front of the government.”

As the AGEP members shared their own professional trajectories, they felt inspired talking to the young scientists and engineers. “I understand better now how important is that faculty mentor and advise undergrads to help them guide their careers especially when they are interested in contributing to engineering and science,” said Noraica Davila, graduate student in the Electrical Engineering department. “When I considered becoming a faculty member, I only thought about teaching and research workload. Now I will need to include other tasks like actively mentoring undergrads,” she added.

Over 700 people from more than 100 colleges and universities, including 20 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) participated in the conference. Representatives from over 20 graduate schools also attended to recruit students for graduate schools, research fellowships and job opportunities. The program included sessions on *Understanding STEM careers in a global context* and *Strategies for applying for and succeeding in graduate programs*, as well as inspirational talks from researchers.

For more information about the MSU AGEP Community, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-432-3268.
