



AGEP Participants Network with MSU Faculty Panel



Dr. Tony Nunez [left], Dr. Percy Pierre, Dr. Isabelle Ayala [right]

EAST LANSING- Thursday, November 2, 2017: Michigan State University hosted its monthly AGEP Community Meeting in room 300 of the Human Ecology building. Around 50 participants from the AGEP Community, along with former Summer Research Opportunities Program interns were in attendance. Steven Thomas, program director of AGEP gave welcoming remarks before giving the floor to moderator, Chris Seals, a fourth year PhD student studying Educational Psychology.

The meeting began with Chris giving introductions and community announcements. After that, he introduced the evening's Faculty Panel Discussion members. The panel consisted of Dr. Tony Nunez, Associate Dean at the MSU Graduate School, Dr. Percy Pierre of the MSU Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and Dr. Isabelle Ayala of the MSU Department of Sociology and the Chicano/Latino Studies Program. The underrepresented students were excited to learn from the panelists as they discussed diversity and inclusion in the classroom, and how to navigate through challenges in their departments. The discussion was impactful for many of the audience members. The faculty panel shared experiences of their academic careers, and provided motivation to audience members from underrepresented backgrounds.

As the panel finished their last words of wisdom, Steven Thomas thanked the panel and gave closing remarks to the audience. When asked his thoughts on the meeting, Rayn Phillips, an MSU Summer Research Opportunities Program alum mentioned, "hearing the panel's experiences in regards to working in certain climates helped me to give more thought in not only how I will orchestrate my graduate studies, but job field as well".

The November AGEP Community Meeting was one for the books. For more information about the AGEP Community at Michigan State University, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-432-3268.