



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

479 W. Circle Dr.
Linton Hall Rm. 116
East Lansing, MI 48824

MSU hosts 2013 MI Fall AGEP Conference



Conference participants networking
at AGEP Fall Conference Luncheon

Friday, September 6: Michigan State University hosted the 2013 Michigan AGEP Alliance Fall Conference at the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel in East Lansing, MI. Over 100 participants, AGEP members, and KCP (King-Chavez- Parks Future Faculty Fellows Program, sponsored by the State of Michigan), from numerous universities in the state of Michigan, participated in this conference. Some of the universities represented included the University of Michigan, Western Michigan, Central Michigan, Ferris State, Michigan Tech, Oakland, Eastern Michigan, Wayne State and Michigan State. The AGEP Program provides support to increase the diversity of the future professoriate. In addition to graduate students and faculty, we also had a valuable contingent of undergraduate students representing the REPID

(Research Education Program to Increase Diversity in Health Researchers, sponsored by NIH), Mi-LSAMP (Michigan Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, sponsored by NSF), and Charles Drew Science Scholars (Residential program sponsored the MSU College of Natural Science) programs.

Friday's meeting began with student powerpoint presentations (CrossTalks) facilitated by Drs. Sheila Contreras (Michigan State University) and Dereck Skeete (Medgar Evers College). CrossTalks are designed as a cross-disciplinary discussion between the Social Science, Natural Science and Engineering disciplines. There were about 60 people in attendance during the CrossTalks. There were two breakout sessions after the CrossTalks, Academia Reality Check and Staying and Paying for Graduate School. The Academia Reality Check panel discussion facilitated by Dr. Alec Gallimore (University of Michigan) consisted of faculty from different types of academic institutions, community college, research-intensive, and minority-serving institution. The Staying and Paying for Graduate School panel discussion was facilitated by Dr. Judi Brown-Clarke (Michigan State University) and covered psycho-socio factors that influence the success of graduate students. After the panel discussions, the audience flowed into the Networking Luncheon and Poster Session where over 12 students from across the State of Michigan showcased their cutting-edge research. One presenter, Anthony Thibodeau (Drew Scholar), mentioned, "I especially enjoyed the graduate school panels and how they were composed of a variety of PhDs all with different roles. I would submit another abstract and present again in a heartbeat."

Following the Networking Luncheon, participants sat in on professional development sessions that covered the following areas: 1) Graduate School Expectations, 2) Dissertation Committee Selection, 3) Strategies for Navigations the Dissertation, 4) Teaching Portfolio & Philosophy, 5) Academic Job Searching. The conference concluded with the Closing Luncheon and Plenary session. This year's luncheon keynote speaker was Dr. John Alderete, professor at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University. He studies the mechanisms of pathogenesis caused by the number one STD agent, *Trichomonas vaginalis*. Recently he found a correlation between seropositivity to *T. vaginalis* and prostate cancer. Dr. Richard Whittington (Tuskegee University), remarked, "The sessions were wonderful and the student presentations were inspiring."

To keep abreast of the latest information for the 2014 conference, check the event website at www.grad.msu.edu/AGEP. For more information about the MSU AGEP Community, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-353-3220.
