



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

479 W. Circle Dr.
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East Lansing, MI 48824

First AGEP Learning Community Meeting for Fall 2013



Graduate student, Leigh-Anne Goins delivers CrossTalk

Thursday, September 5: The MSU AGEP Learning Community Meeting was held in the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel in East Lansing, MI. Over 80 participants, MSU AGEP members, and faculty from numerous universities were in attendance. Dean Karen Klomprens gave welcoming remarks to the audience.

One of the hallmarks of the MSU AGEP Learning Community is the ChalkTalks. ChalkTalks are ten-minute presentations from graduate students with only a white board and without electronic aids. For the

September meeting, we had presentations from Elijah Lowe, graduate student in the Computer Science Department and Leigh-Anne Goins, graduate student in the Sociology department. Lowe's presentation was on "Differential expression influences differential development in chordates" and Goin's presentation was "Representations of Racial and Gender Discourses in Online spaces: (Re)Creating Exclusion and Unbelonging through Online Comments". Goins described her experience Thursday night as "My continued engagement with the AGEP community—engaging in chalk talks, going to monthly meetings, attending workshops provided through the graduate school, and the AGEP bulletin—ensures as I enter the final stages of my graduate career (I am currently collecting dissertation data) I am well supported, connected, and encouraged. I am confident that with the support of AGEP I will not only complete this process, I will also be a stronger scholar and future mentor."

AGEP Alum, Dr. Baranda Fermin took the opportunity to explain how AGEP has been instrumental in her new position at the University of North Texas-Dallas. She highlighted appreciation of the Learning community and mentorship she received from the cohort. Dr. Suzanne Koptur (Florida International University), described her impressions of the AGEP meeting as "...a dynamic and useful group for all grad students at the university. I have learned that our grad school dean has begun a similar initiative, to be called AGILE...I plan to meet with that office to tell them about how well it works in AGEP."

For more information about the MSU AGEP Community, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-353-3220.
