

MSU SROP Showcases research at ERN 2015

EAST LANSING, Michigan, March 13, 2015—Seven Michigan State University SROP alumni presented their research at the 2015 Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) February 19-21, 2015 at the Renaissance Hotel in Washington, D.C. The ERN conference continues to encourage undergraduate students to apply for advanced degrees to conduct original research on topics relevant to our nation's needs. The conference created an optimal environment for the celebration and promotion of student researchers from racial and ethnic groups historically under-represented in STEM and Social Science graduate programs.



SROP Cohort with MSU AGEP students and SROP Director at ERN 2015

"The most memorable aspect of the ERN conference was the networking. I was able to speak with representatives of potential graduate schools and that gave me insight into gaining admission and allowed me to build important connections," said Carla Jones, student at NCAT. "Also, I enjoyed meeting up with friends from my SROP cohort," she recalled.

The following students participated in the Michigan State University Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) and received travel awards to present their findings at this prestigious meeting:

- **Alexandria Bufford**, Tuskegee University: The Effects of Lower Protein Levels on Sow Lactation and Heat Increments (*Dr. Natalie Trottier*)
- **Gloria Calderon**, University of New Orleans: Characterization of the Serine, Threonine Kinase Domain of the Tudor protein STK31-TDRD8 (*Dr. Chen Chen*)
- **Aliyah Glover**, University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff: The relationship between Aggression and Submission in Spotted Hyenas (*Dr. Kay E. Holekamp*)
- **Stephen Kinunda**, Davenport University: Yeast Cell Recombination for Genetic Fitness and Transgenic Stability (*Dr. Barry Williams*)
- **Luis Bernardo Martinetti**, University of Texas: Aqueous Alteration of Presque Isle Peridotite in Marquette, Michigan (*Dr. Michael Velbel*)
- **Javier Mulero-Sierra**, Universidad del Este: Potential Plant Development Manipulation Through Expression of a Mutant Histone (*Dr. Steve van Nocker*)
- **Monica Setien-Grafals**, Syracuse University: Synthesis and Characterization of Magnetic Nanoparticles for Eventual Use in Bacterial Extraction (*Dr. Evangelyn Alocija*)

The goal of the MSU SROP program is to increase the number of domestic minority undergraduate students who pursue graduate study and careers in teaching and research at US colleges and universities. "I recommended MSU-SROP Program at ERN because it is a complete program where they prepare us very well in different ways for graduate school," said Javier Mulero-Sierra.

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