

Michigan State University Celebrates 2017 SROP Program



EAST LANSING, MI - Thursday, July 27, 2017: Michigan State University's Summer Research Opportunities Program hosted its' annual closing dinner at the Kellogg Conference Center and Hotel. Over 90 participants including the entire SROP cohort, MSU graduate student volunteers, faculty and staff attended.

The evening began with an opening PowerPoint comprised of a collection of pictures that were taken throughout the summer program. These photos included memories from the intern's first experiences with each other to the last. Faculty seminars, lab partnerships, the trip to Detroit and the Kellogg Biological Station were just a few of the pictures that were highlighted. As the guests and interns walked into the dinner, they were overjoyed to see a collage of their achievements and memories of the last seventy days.

The next phase of the dinner included opening remarks by SROP Program Director, Steven D. Thomas. He expressed the importance of the summer research opportunities program, along with the ways in which he envisions everyone that is a part of it, to be successful in all of their future endeavors. Next, both the nominees and winners of the 2017 MSU SROP Mock Awards was announced to the audience. Two categories that were highlighted included Most Improved Presenter and Best Presenter. The nominees for most improved presenter were Tyrell Jamison of Claflin University, Keila Rodriguez of the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez, Ellis Moore of Purdue University Calumet, Patrick Gentles of Medgar Evers College, and Gerard Jordan Owens-Fryar of Hampton University. First place went to Gerard Jordan Owens-Fryar. Every week he improved more than the last and his peers were proud to highlight him for his hard work and dedication. The nominees for best presenter included, Camila Monsalve of Florida International University, Christopher Rhoades of Michigan State University, and Ryan Borchert of Northeastern Illinois University. The SROP interns voted Ryan Borchert as the first place winner and best presenter. Ryan's attention to detail and countless hours of practice earned him this award and his peers were more than happy to see him accept this award.

The final phase of the meeting included closing remarks from Dr. Judi Brown-Clarke, Diversity Director of the Bio Computational Evolution in Action Consortium (BEACON) Science and Technology Center and Dr. Pero Dagbovie, University Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean at the Michigan State University Graduate School Department. Dr. Brown-Clarke explained how proud she was of each intern for his or her personal growth within the program. She also left them with words of encouragement to ensure that they continue being a leader while on their academic journey. Dr. Dagbovie extended his warmest regards to all of the interns, volunteers, faculty and staff in the room. He also left the interns with a few words of encouragement that urged them to remain focused and succeed in accomplishing their dreams.

The 2017 Summer Research Opportunities Program was filled with amazing memories, networking opportunities and the creation of lifelong professional relationships. For more information about the Summer Research Opportunities Program at Michigan State University, please contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-432-3268.