



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

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MSU AGEP's third annual trip to Washington DC

East Lansing, Michigan, March 4, 2015- In February, the Graduate School invited a group of advanced doctoral students of the MSU AGEP (Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate) Learning Community to represent MSU in Washington DC. This trip (Feb 18-21) had three components: Visit of the National Science Foundation (NSF), discussions with elected representatives on Capitol Hill, and recruitment of potential graduate students during the Emerging Researchers National (ERN) conference. "I can't pick one specific component because the entire trip itinerary was memorable in its own way. Each visit and participation in the different events opened up a world of possibilities and ideas which I was not aware of prior to this trip," recalled Fredy Rodriguez, graduate student in the MSU Anthropology program.



2015 AGEP Group at the
National Science Foundation

Reflecting the diversity of the AGEP Community, the participants represented graduate programs in the Education, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences and Engineering fields. The trip was an initiative of the MSU Center for Academic and Future Faculty Excellence (CAFFE) and organized by Associate Deans of The Graduate School, Drs. Antonio Nunez (Psychology & Neuroscience), and Julius Jackson (Microbiology & Molecular Genetics), with the support of Steven Thomas, Program Manager. The visit to NSF took place on Thursday February 19th. The group met with division directors, program directors, AAAS fellows and other members of the NSF staff to get advice on career plans, grant-writing and to learn about the workings and mission of the agency.

Mary Malaspina, Assistant Director of the MSU Washington Office led a series of advocacy training sessions for the AGEP group in January. So when Feb trip came around, the students were ready to share with congressional staffers information about the AGEP Learning Community at MSU as well as to discuss their individual research projects. Some of the congressional offices visited included the offices of Senator Debbie Stabenow, Representative Tim Walberg, Representative Justin Amash and Senator Gary Peters.

During the third part of DC trip, participating AGEP members helped to recruit for the MSU graduate and summer internship programs during the ERN Conference sponsored by NSF and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (Thursday-Saturday). During the conference, the MSU participants helped to judge posters and oral presentations of young scholars who attended the meeting. "The conference is filled with a lot of new energy and enthusiasm for research," said Cameron Herman, graduate student in the MSU Sociology department.

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