9th Annual Promise Summer Success Institute

Sheraton Hotel
10207 Wincopin Circle
Columbia, MD 21044
AUGUST 19 – 20 2011
ABOUT AGEP

The National Science Foundation’s Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) program is intended to increase significantly the number of domestic students receiving doctoral degrees in the sciences, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), with special emphasis on those population groups underrepresented in these fields (i.e., African Americans, Hispanics, American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders). In addition, AGEP is particularly interested in increasing the number of minorities who will enter the professoriate in these disciplines. Specific objectives of the AGEP program are

1) to develop and implement innovative models for recruiting, mentoring, and retaining minority students in STEM doctoral programs, and
2) to develop effective strategies for identifying and supporting underrepresented minorities who want to pursue academic careers.

ABOUT PROMISE:

MARYLAND’S AGEP

PROMISE: Maryland’s AGEP is an alliance of the three public research universities in Maryland, led by UMBC, dedicated to the increasing the number and diversity of Ph.D. graduates in the sciences and engineering who go on to academic careers. AGEP is a program of the National Science Foundation. The initial award for Maryland’s AGEP was funded in 2002 for 5 years. The Principal Investigator (PI) for the first phase of Maryland’s AGEP grant was former UMBC Provost Dr. Arthur T. Johnson. The second award for PROMISE was made in 2008. UMBC’s recent past Provost, Dr. Elliot Hirshman, became the PROMISE PI in 2008 and was instrumental in institutionalizing several PROMISE programs before leaving UMBC to become the President of San Diego State University in July 2011. The current PI is Dr. Philip Rous who serves as Interim Provost at UMBC.

The Co-PIs on each campus are:

- Dr. Janet C. Rutledge, Dean of The Graduate School at UMBC, and Vice Provost for Graduate Education (Computer Science & Engineering Faculty)
- Dr. Jordan E. Warnick, Assistant Dean of Student Research at the University of Maryland, Founding Campus
- Dr. Carol S. Parham, Former Associate Dean of Graduate Student Experience, University of Maryland College Park (UMCP)
- Dr. Johnetta G. Davis, Associate Dean of Graduate Studies at the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), Founding Co-PI for UMCP (Emerita, retired June 2009)
- Dr. Renetta Garrison Tull has served as the Director for PROMISE since 2003, and become a Co-PI in 2008.

The alliance between UMBC, UM Founding Campus in downtown Baltimore, and UMCP encourages interaction between the university communities. Each university will develop its own set of activities in three areas:

1) cultivating new graduate students;
2) building a supportive community where students can excel; and
3) promoting professional development. Although some of the activities will be on individual campuses, one of the keys to the success of PROMISE: Maryland’s AGEP is the development and implementation of activities that promote successful recruitment, retention, graduation, and professorial training that will involve and engage students from all three campuses.

PROMISE uniquely serves the needs of graduate students across three campuses through activities that range from retreats, seminars, and conferences, to informal discussions during breakfast. The services and programs of PROMISE are open to all graduate students who are seeking or interested in obtaining the PhD, regardless of discipline. The focus of the services and programs is geared toward one of the goals of PROMISE: To increase the numbers
and diversity of Maryland’s graduate student population in sciences, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The services and programs of PROMISE will always reflect this goal. PROMISE seeks to increase diverse representation by designing programs that will successfully cultivate new students from diverse ethnicities; and facilitate retention, successful graduation through the PhD, and preparation for the professoriate.

Broadly, students can participate in PROMISE regardless of their status (full-time, part-time), ethnicity, discipline, or source of funding. Nanowly, students who are underrepresented will be strongly supported as they utilize the services and resources of PROMISE; these students can be encouraged to consider PROMISE to be one of their major mechanisms of support. Services and resources are available to underrepresented students, and to students of all ethnicities who work to achieve the goals of PROMISE at UMBC, UM Founding Campus, and UMCP. With this 2011 Summer Success Institute, PROMISE launches a new initiative, PROMISE Pathways, to seek ways to involve and serve more graduate students at additional colleges and universities across Maryland.

ABOUT THE DISSERTATION HOUSE

The PROMISE Dissertation House is comprised of a series of workshops, meetings, and seminars that are held on college campuses and at conferences to facilitate successful completion of the doctoral degree. The workshops emphasize writing the dissertation, preparing for the defense, and communicating with faculty. The Dissertation House is a program of the National Science Foundation’s PROMISE: Maryland’s Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professorate (AGEP) and is supported by the Graduate Schools at the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC), the University of Maryland College Park, and the University of Maryland, Founding Campus in downtown Baltimore. Growth of the program is also attributed to the Council of Graduate School’s Ph.D. Completion Project.

The 2011 PROMISE Summer Success Institute is sponsoring the 12 Hour Dissertation House (DH) Marathon from 1:00 PM on Friday, August 19 until 1:00 AM Saturday, August 20. Students applied in advance of the conference to participate. Students participate in the online version of the DH during the in-person sessions and throughout the year. One of the themes for the Dissertation House online was coined by two of the daily DH bloggers, Sophoria “Nikki” Westmoreland (Mechanical Engineering, UMCP) and Alexis Williams (Human Development, UMCP). They invite all students working on dissertations to join them online. They, along with others, are #TeamGetItDone. The PROMISE Dissertation House has been acknowledged in:


Look for other PROMISE programs throughout the year:

- Success Seminars
- Ph.D. Completion Project Workshops
- PROF-it: Professors-in-Training
- Job listings on Facebook and the PROMISE website http://www.umbc.edu/promise

AGENDA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2011
Attire: Casual
8:00 AM REGISTRATION AND BREAKFAST REFRESHMENTS
Location: Terrace Gallery
Morning Program location: Terrace Ballroom
8:30 AM WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Dr. Renetta G. Tull, Director of PROMISE, Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Development, UMBC
Moderator: Dr. Arvenita Washington Cherry Postdoctoral Fellow, UMBC
8:40 AM OPENING REMARKS
“The Imposter Syndrome and How to Overcome it”
Dr. Kellina Craig-Henderson, Program Director, Social Psychology Program, National Science Foundation - Division of Behavioral and Cognitive Sciences
Location: Terrace Ballroom
9:10 AM PLENARY SESSION
“Using Your Advanced Degree to Become a Global Leader”
Speaker: Dr. Raymond Rodriguez, Professor and Director, Center of Excellence in Nutritional Genomics, University of California, Davis
Location: Terrace Ballroom
10:10 AM Networking break and one-on-one/small group time with Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Craig-Henderson
Location: Terrace Ballroom and Gallery
10:30 AM MORNING SESSION
“How to be a Professor, Have a Balanced Life, and Impact the World”
Speaker: Dr. Derrick Cogburn, Associate Professor of International Relations, International Communication Program American University
Location: Terrace Ballroom
12:00 PM LUNCH
“Life is an Adventure – Unique Challenges, Exceptional Results”
Introduction to Collaborative Leadership and the PROMISE Action Learning Professional Development Program
Speaker: Craig Imler, Terra Trax
Location: Terrace Ballroom ABC
1:00 PM Community Building Retreat Event-Interactive Action Learning, Part I
Facilitators: Terra Trax and team from Outward Bound Professional
Location: Terrace Ballroom ABC and Sheraton Park Area
1:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSION
Dissertation House 12 Hour Marathon: 1:00 PM – 1:00 AM (For DH Alumini and by special permission only)
Facilitator: Dr. Judith Kadarusman Pollack
VIDEO CHAT with Dr. Wendy Carter-Veale, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM
1:00 PM CONCURRENT SESSION
PROMISE Impact Writing Session (Invited)
Facilitator: Dr. Jennifer Bacon, PROMISE Alumna, Assistant Professor, Iona College
Participans: Dr. Gary Cruz, Dr. Asha-Lateef Williams, Dr. Mario Sto. Domingo
Location: Terrace D
4:30 PM Break, Hotel Check-in
Location: Terrace ABC
**SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2011**

**9:30 AM** Special Session - PROMISE Alumni Panel

"I was a graduate student in Maryland and I finished my Ph.D.!= (Challenges, Choices, and Triumphs.)

**Speakers:** Ph.D. Alumni from UMBC, the University of Maryland College Park, and the University of Maryland - The Founding Campus (formerly known as the University of Maryland Baltimore)

**Location:** Terrace AB

**10:30 AM** Networking Break

**11:00 AM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Developing Your ‘Board of Directors’: How to Plan Success for Your First Year"

**Speaker:** Christopher Jones, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, MIT

**Location:** Ellicott Room

**12:00 PM** Lunch

**Location:** Terrace Patio

**1:00 PM** Coffee Break

**Location:** Terrace AB

**2:00 PM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Managing a Family While in Graduate School: Dr. Kaye Wise Whitehead"

**Speaker:** Professor, Vanderbilt University

**Location:** Terrace AB

**3:00 PM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Ph.D.!" (Challenges, Choices, and Triumphs.)

**Speakers:** Ph.D. Alumni from UMBC, the University of Maryland College Park, and the University of Maryland - The Founding Campus (formerly known as the University of Maryland Baltimore)

**Location:** Terrace AB

**4:00 PM** Coffee Break

**Location:** Terrace AB

**5:00 PM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Do Your ‘Board of Directors’ Need to Be Expanded?"

**Speaker:** Christopher Jones, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, MIT

**Location:** Terrace AB

**6:00 PM** Dinner

"Action Learning Roles and Best Practices"

**Facilitators:** Craig Imler and the Terra Trax Team

**Location:** Wincopin Room

**7:00 PM** "Interactive Learning and Professional Development (Includes Improvisational Theater Activity)"

**Speakers:** Dr. Frances Carter (UMBC, Public Policy), Analyst, Weststat

**Facilitators:** Craig Imler and the Terra Trax Team

**Location:** Wincopin Room

**8:00 PM** Evening Dessert and Snack Break

**Location:** Wincopin Room

**9:00 PM** "Ph.D. Roll Call"

Meet all of the postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and professionals with doctorates. You will have a chance to see and meet several people with doctoral degrees from underrepresented/minority backgrounds. These guests are among our PROMISE Role Models and Mentors.

**Moderator:** Dr. Idalis Villanueva, Instructor, Department of Bioengineering, University of Maryland College Park

**Location:** Terrace AB

**10:00 PM** Adjourn, Network, Rest

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2011**

**8:00 AM** Breakfast Refreshments

**Location:** Terrace AB

**9:00 AM** "Ph.D. Roll Call"

Meet all of the postdoctoral fellows, faculty, and professionals with doctorates. You will have a chance to see and meet several people with doctoral degrees from underrepresented/minority backgrounds. These guests are among our PROMISE Role Models and Mentors.

**Moderator:** Dr. Idalis Villanueva, Instructor, Department of Bioengineering, University of Maryland College Park

**Location:** Terrace AB

**10:00 PM** Adjourn, Network, Rest

**SPECIAL TOPICS**

**11:00 PM** For Continuing/Returning Students:

"Finishing Your Degree, Planning Your Career, and Navigating the Politics"

**Speakers:** Dr. William Robinson, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University

**Location:** Terrace AB

**12:00 AM** Coffee Break

**Location:** Terrace AB

**1:00 AM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Developing Your ‘Board of Directors’: How to Plan Success for Your First Year"

**Speaker:** Christopher Jones, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, MIT

**Location:** Terrace AB

**2:00 AM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Managing a Family While in Graduate School: Dr. Kaye Wise Whitehead"

**Speaker:** Professor, Vanderbilt University

**Location:** Terrace AB

**3:00 AM** Coffee Break

**Location:** Terrace AB

**4:00 AM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Do Your ‘Board of Directors’ Need to Be Expanded?"

**Speaker:** Christopher Jones, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, MIT

**Location:** Terrace AB

**5:00 AM** Specialized Workshops – Concurrent Sessions For New/Incoming Students:

"Do Your ‘Board of Directors’ Need to Be Expanded?"

**Speaker:** Christopher Jones, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, MIT

**Location:** Terrace AB
BIographies of SpeakerS & Writers

For the Summer Success Institute

AUG 2011

Dr. Renetta Garrison Tull
Assistant Dean for Graduate Student Development

The Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers. Dr. Tull’s greatest joys come when she is able to help students to achieve their goals and dreams.

Dr. Tull presents across the U.S. and Puerto Rico on topics ranging from graduate school recruitment, retention, and dissertation completion, to faculty development. She serves as a national coach and mentor for prospective and current graduate students at universities outside of Maryland through STEM conferences such as GEM, NSBE, SACNAS, SHPE, and AISES. She is a Board Member of the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools.

Dr. Tull earned the B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Howard University, and both the M.S. in Electrical Engineering and the Ph.D. in Speech Science from Northwestern University. She was an Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow and Assistant Professor of Communicative Disorders at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW), and a researcher in the both the Waisman and Trace Centers (Rehabilitation Engineering) prior to coming to UMBC. In addition to academic experience, she has been involved with entrepreneurship projects and meetings in Silicon Valley, New York, Raleigh, as well as Illinois and Maryland. She has also worked with the Washington DC Technology Council. In her current roles, Dr. Tull works to improve community and professional development opportunities for graduate students at UMBC, UMB, and UMCP through targeted PROMISE programs that include: Professors-in-Training (PROF-it), Dissertation House, the Community Building Retreat, Fall Harvest, Research Symposium, Reflections Health and Wellness Seminars, and others. These programs, along with PROMISE’s recruitment efforts and the growing recognition of Maryland’s commitment to diversity at the graduate level, have contributed to increases in applications, enrollments, and graduation rates of underrepresented graduate students in STEM fields.

Dr. Victor Ayala

Dr. Ayala is a Postdoctoral Fellow with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC)-Frederick, Inc. at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Frederick, MD. He is part of the Viral Immunology group of scientists with the AIDS and Cancer Virus Program in the lab of Dr. Claes Ohlen. Dr. Ayala’s research focuses on antiviral T cell responses and their potential for control of HIV/SIV infection.

Dr. Ayala obtained his Bachelor degree from the University of Puerto Rico and Master of Biotechnology degree at Johns Hopkins University. He continued his studies, and graduated in the Spring of 2011, obtaining a Ph.D. in Molecular Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Maryland Baltimore. As a graduate student, Dr. Ayala authored and co-authored 3 publications and presented his doctoral research at numerous international meetings including the American Society for Microbiology and the 9th International Bordetella Symposium. Dr. Ayala has also been involved with PROMISE for five years, mentoring other graduate students. He balances a busy work/life schedule with his loving wife and three children.

Dr. Jennifer Nicole Bacon

is an assistant professor in special education at Iona College. Dr. Bacon earned her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Maryland, College Park in December 2009. She earned a Master of Education degree in Special Education from the University of Virginia and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Development from Mount Vernon College for Women.

Dr. Bacon is the author of “Culturally Responsive Poetry,” featured in the Journal of Poetry Therapy and co-author of the article “Examining Teachers’ Beliefs about African American Male Students in a Low-Performing High School,” featured in Teachers College Record. She is the recipient of the 2010 Book-in-a-Day writing fellowship in Tuscany, Italy, the 2009 recipient of Poetry Alive and the 2008 recipient of the Pursue the Dream: Chris Mazza Award for Poetry Therapy. Dr. Bacon has participated in educational projects in the United States and Africa. She has been featured on Dialogue, Poet’s Corner and the Cedric Muhammad Black Coffee radio program. Dr. Bacon’s upcoming research discussions and presentations will be held at the Society for Phenomenology and the Human Sciences and the Expressive Arts Summit in the fall of 2011.

Dr. Raheem Beyah

Associate Professor, Georgia Tech

Raheem Beyah, a native of Atlanta, Ga., is an Associate Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech where he leads the Georgia Tech Communications Assurance and Performance Group (CAP) and is a member of the Georgia Tech Communications Systems Center (CSC). Prior to returning to Georgia Tech, Dr. Beyah was an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Georgia State University, a research faculty member with the Georgia Tech CSC, and a consultant in Andersen Consulting’s (now Accenture) Network Solutions Group.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from North Carolina A&T State University in 1998. He received his Masters and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from Georgia Tech in 1999 and 2003, respectively. Dr. Beyah served as a Guest Editor for MONET. He is an Associate Editor of several journals including the (Wiley) Wireless Communications and Mobile Computing Journal. His research interests include network security, wireless networks, network traffic characterization, and performance, and security visualization. He received the National Science...
Foundation CAREER award in 2009 and was selected for DARPA’s Computer Science Study Panel in 2010. He is a member of NSBE, ASEE, and a senior member of ACM and IEEE.

DR. SARICE BOSTON is currently a Senior Scientist - Postdoctoral at Becton Dickinson (BD). She received a B.S. degree in Biology from Northeastern Illinois University, a M.S. in Medical Sciences from the University of South Florida, and recently completed her Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences from the University of Maryland Baltimore. Her doctoral studies involved investigating a novel approach for the identification of a new cancer therapeutic. Dr. Boston considers herself a cell biologist and is currently using her knowledge to discover proprietary based technologies for the Cell and Tissue Technologies group at BD Technologies.

DR. QUINTIN BOSTON is a graduate of the University of South Florida and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He earned his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation from The Rehabilitation Institute while in Carbondale. He is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor and has worked in public sector Vocational Rehabilitation. Currently, Dr. Boston is an Assistant Professor and Coordinator of the Rehabilitation Counseling Program at North Carolina A & T State University. His research interest includes counseling education and supervision, cultural beliefs towards disability, and multicultural issues in counseling.

DR. JESUS J. CABAN, is a medical imaging scientist at the Naval Medical Center and a guest researcher at the National Institutes of Health. His research interests include medical imaging, clinical informatics, multi-modal data fusion, computer vision, and visualization systems. Dr. Caban received his Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, his masters degree from the University of Kentucky, and his bachelors from the University of Puerto Rico. Dr. Caban has over 25 peer-reviewed scientific publications and has received multiple awards for his research including the 2010 NIH Fellows Award for Research Excellence and the 2009 IBM Research Fellowship Award.

DR. FRANCES D. CARTER, Public Policy, Evaluation and Analytical Methods, University of Maryland, Baltimore County Frances D. Carter, currently a Research Associate with Westat, Incorporated (an employee owned research corporation serving federal, state, and local government in Rockville, Maryland) is a former PROMISE Peer Mentor. Her current work focuses on research and evaluation of large scale grant portfolios and projects in STEM fields. She completed her Ph.D. in May 2011 and received Masters of Science degrees in Physics and Applied Physics (Mississippi State University & University of Maryland, Baltimore County, respectively). She received Bachelor’s of Science degrees in physics and mechanical engineering from Spelman College and the Georgia Institute of Technology, respectively.

Dr. Caban’s dissertation research focused on evaluating policies and programs to broaden participation in STEM fields. Her broader research agenda examines policies and programs at additional levels along the STEM education pipeline and for different positions within the nation’s technical workforce. Frances’ passion for STEM educational programs results from years of academic and research support from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the U.S. Department of Education via GAANN, National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science, Inc. (CEM), and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB). In addition to serving as an invited speaker at several national NSF programs including HBCU-UP and the Emerging Researchers National (ERN) Conference, she provides funding training for students at UMBC and MIT with her colleague Patricia Ordóñez. Various professional experiences in engineering and research (Corning Incorporated), evaluation (the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the American Evaluation Association), and mentoring students have positioned her to become a national leader aimed at improving and sustaining STEM policies and programs.

DR. DERRICK COGBURN, Associate Professor of International Relations, International Communication Program, American University Professor Cogburn is an expert on global information and communication technology policy and in the use of ICTs for socio-economic development. In addition to being an associate professor at the iSchool, he is a senior research associate at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs at the Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs at SU.

He is also a faculty affiliate with the Convergence Center, a principal and member of the Scientific Committee of the Internet Governance Project, chair of the Communication Committee for the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet); and a faculty member of the Syracuse University Africa Initiative. In addition, Cogburn is an adjunct professor of international communication at the School of International Service at American University; an adjunct professor at the International School of Information Management at the University of Myosore in southern India; and an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of Public and Development Management at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Cogburn is also the president of the Information Technology and Politics section of the American Political Science Association as well as president of the International Communication section of the International Studies Association. Cogburn also serves as CEO of the Praxis Global Group Inc., a specialized consulting firm organized to provide analysis of global affairs and strategic opportunities driven and facilitated by globalization and information and communication technologies. Praxis also provides mixed-methods research consulting, specializing in evaluation and community-based approaches.

Professor Cogburn received his Ph.D. in political science (International Relations, Political Economy, and Comparative Politics) from Howard University in 1996, where he was a W.K. Kellogg doctoral fellow at the Ralph J. Bunche International Affairs Center. He also received his MA in political science (Comparative Politics: Africa, Political Economy) from Howard University in 1994, and his BA in history (Ancient Near Eastern and Africa)/political science (International Relations) from the University of Oklahoma in 1992.

DR. LYDIA M. CONTRERAS-MARTIN was born in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and arrived in New York City in October of 1991. She graduated from Riverdale Country School, a well-respected private high school in NYC in 1999 and obtained a B.S.E in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University in 2003. Dr. Contreras-Martin completed her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from Cornell University in 2008, focusing on engineering bacterial cells for improved production of therapeutic proteins. In 2008, she joined the Wadsworth Research Center (New York State Department of Health) as an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow, where she worked on understanding mechanisms of infection in pathogenic bacteria. As a FASEB Postdoctoral Visiting Scientist, Dr. Contreras-Martin joined the Biochemistry Department at the Max. F. Perutz Laboratories in Vienna during the summer of 2010. In January 2011, Dr. Contreras-Martin joined the Chemical Engineering Department at the University of Texas at Austin as an assistant professor to conduct fundamental research in the areas of RNA characterization and RNA-protein chemistry.

Dr. Contreras-Martin has received several academic and service awards including a New York City’s Mayor Award for community service, a Merck & Co. Technology Fellowship Award an NSF IGERT Fellowship in nonlinear mathematics, an NIH Postdoctoral Fellowship, and a 2009 FASEB Postdoctoral Award (awarded to top young minority scientists in the country). Dr. Contreras-Martin resides in Austin, TX with her husband Lealon Martin.

DR. DR. ANTHONY CRUZ

Gary is currently a consultant at Great Minds in STEM, a recognized, national 501c3 non-profit organization. He leads efforts in writing federal grant applications to agencies including NASA, NSF, DoD, DOE, and the Department of Education. He provides expert knowledge in assessing programs, especially those that impact Latino/a college readiness, access, and persistence and STEM literacy. He also has a background in student development, diversity
programming and the social construction of technico-policy especially as it applies to Latinos/as.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Cruz was the interim assistant director of research and assessment in the Department of Multicultural Programs and Services at The University of Arizona. Dr. Cruz also taught several first-year retention success courses. He helped write college curriculum for a course that critically blended diversity with first-year retention. This course was designed as a response to the University of Arizona Strategic Retention Plan.

Dr. Cruz co-founded a graduate outreach, recruitment and retention program for Mexican American engineers and scientists. The Promotion and Awareness of Graduate Engineering and Science Studies (PAGES) program, of the Society of Mexican American Engineers and Scientists, Inc. (MAES), served to create a culture of advance-degreed professionals and clear a pathway to the doctorate by providing financial, moral, and social support to aspiring and current graduate students. In November 2004, Dr. Cruz was honored with the Medalla de Oro, MAES' highest award bestowed to its community.

Gary received his bachelors degree in Wildlife Science and masters degree in Higher Education – Student Affairs from Texas A&M University. He received his doctorate in higher education from the University of Arizona. He currently resides in Los Angeles, CA, with his wife, Lourdes.

DR. KELLINA CRAIG-HENDERSON, Program Director, Social Psychology Program, National Science Foundation-Division of Behavioral and Cognitive SciencesKellina M. Craig-Henderson, Ph.D. is a former Professor of Social Psychology. She retains an affiliation with the Department of Psychology at Howard University where she was promoted to the rank of Full Professor shortly before officially joining the Federal service to work with the National Science Foundation (NSF) as a Program Director. Currently, she serves as the Interim Deputy Division Director of the Division of Social and Economic Sciences within the Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences directorate. Craig-Henderson, who also serves as the Foundation’s Human Subjects Research Protections Officer, has published numerous reports of empirical research as well as two books on interracial relationships.

Dr. Craig-Henderson graduated from Wesleyan University in Connecticut before attending the Master’s Program in the Social Sciences at the University of Chicago where she earned a M.A. Immediately following that she attended Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana and earned an M.S. and a Ph.D. in Psychology. She served on the faculty in the Department of Psychology as well as the Afro-American Studies and Research program at the University of Illinois in Champaign-Urbana. This was followed by an appointment in the Psychology Department of California State University in Long Beach. She subsequently moved to Howard University in Washington, DC. Dr. Craig-Henderson remains passionate about broadening the participation of underrepresented groups, and has been involved in a number of activities at NSF which share this focus.

CHRISTOPHER JONES, Assistant Dean of the Graduate School, MIT Christopher Jones received his B.S. in Physics and Mathematics from Morehouse College in 1999 and his Master’s in Nuclear Engineering and Technology & Policy from the MIT in 2003. His research at MIT included developing diagnostics tools for a fusion experiment, and participating in an interdisciplinary study on the future of nuclear power. After finishing his Master’s, he worked with the North East States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCOAUM) on Energy Policy Issues and taught 9th grade advanced algebra at the Media and Technology Charter High School (MATCH) in Boston. Christopher is now the Assistant Dean for Graduate Education at MIT. In this capacity, he directs and manages various minority recruitment programs and initiatives for MIT, one of which is the MIT Summer Research Program (MSRP). He is Director of the Amgen Scholars National Program, an eight- year $45 million commitment from the Amgen Foundation, providing scientific research opportunities for students from across the nation. In addition to his role as Assistant Dean and Amgen Director, Christopher is also a Ph.D. Candidate in MIT’s Department of Urban Studies and Planning. His current research interest is in green development. As a student in DUSP, he has also focused on neighborhood organizations such as the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI) and their impact on cities. Christopher is the proud husband of Dr. Jerrilyn Jones. Dr. Jones is a graduate of Howard University and Harvard Medical School. They have a beautiful baby daughter, Jordyn Jones.

DR. JARON LOCKETT, Intramural Scientific Recruiter at National Institutes of Health. Dr. Lockett also received a Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Pathobiology at Wayne State University.

DR. VIVIANA BEATRIZ MACMANUS, Born and raised in Los Angeles county, Dr. Viviana Beatriz MacManus received her B.A. from Occidental College in 2003 and her Ph.D. in the Department of Literature from the University of California, San Diego. As one of the few Latina students and students of color in higher education, Dr. MacManus realized the critical importance of programs that increased diversity in higher education as well as programs that emphasized the retention of students of color. It was this awareness of the lack of minority representation during her academic career that inspired her to incorporate politics into her academic work, specifically examining the intersectionality of race, class, sexuality and gender violence. These experiences have critically informed Dr. MacManus’ academic path, as her doctoral work stems from a deeper personal interest in historical memory projects and investigates transnational Latin American human rights, critical gender studies and political history.

Dr. MacManus’ dissertation, “Gendering the State of Exception: the Politics of Gender and the Production of Language in Latin American Carceral Narratives” examines representations of gendered violence in Latin American prison narratives, turning to cultural texts produced under the Argentine and Chilean military dictatorships and the Mexico City massacre of 1968. Dr. MacManus plans to follow this trajectory of gendered discourses in Latin America to investigate the relationship between violence, labor and feminism and the critical relationship between neoliberal practices and gendered, racial violence experienced by both U.S. Latina and Latin American communities. Dr. MacManus also plans to investigate the accounts of Mexico’s “Dirty War” of the 1970s and 1980s, focusing on the way in which the national narrative completely elided female guerrilla fighters’ active participation in the armed struggle. As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Dr. MacManus eagerly anticipates pursuing these projects and teaching in the Departments of Gender and Women’s Studies and Modern Languages, Linguistics and Intercultural Communication.

DR. ALYCIA MARSHALL, Professor of Mathematics/Coordinator of Part-time Faculty/Principal Investigator of Engineering Scholars Program, Anne Arundel Community College

Dr. Alycia Marshall is a tenured, Full Professor of Mathematics at Anne Arundel Community College. She holds a Ph.D. in Mathematics Education from the University of Maryland at College Park, a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from Bowie State University and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Mathematics from the University of Maryland at Baltimore County.

Dr. Marshall’s teaching experience includes three years as a secondary mathematics teacher in Prince George’s County, Maryland and 12 years of teaching mathematics at the college level at Anne Arundel Community College (AACC). At AACC, she currently serves as the coordinator and supervisor of adjunct faculty in the mathematics department. Dr. Marshall is also the Chief Executive Officer of Educational Excellence LLC, a tutoring company. This company provides tutoring and enrichment services and programs to students of all ages in all subject areas in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area.

Dr. Marshall periodically works as a mathematical consultant, assisting elementary and middle school faculty with mathematics curriculum, instruction and certification. Professor Marshall also assists annually with evaluating student teachers in a secondary mathematics education program at the University of Maryland at College Park.

Dr. Marshall’s research interests include the qualitative study of mathematically successful African American students at the community college level. Over the past 5 years, Dr. Marshall has presented on this topic at a variety of conferences hosted by professional organizations including the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the American Educational Research Association.
Dr. Lealon L. Martin is a Research Fellow and Lecturer in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Texas-Austin, Adjunct Professor of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, and Jurisdoctoral candidate in the University of Texas School of Law. Dr. Martin is the principal investigator of the Martin Research Group which develops and applies mathematical modeling techniques toward the optimal design of complex systems. His research lies at the interface of systems engineering, public policy, and legal theory - with the goal of innovating novel nature-inspired technologies and identifying robust solutions to critical issues of human need.

Born in South Carolina, Dr. Martin received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Tuskegee University. He received his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles. Afterwards, Dr. Martin worked as a post-doctoral research associate in the Pitzer Center for Theoretical Chemistry in the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley. He then joined the faculty in the Howard P. Iserman Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY as an Assistant Professor and Affiliate Faculty in the Department of Decision Science and Engineering Systems which he held most recent to his current position.

Dr. Martin is happily married to the love of his life - Dr. Lydia Contreras-Martin.

Dr. Ernesto Munoz completed a Ph.D. degree at the University of Maryland at College Park in December 2007 from the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science. After finishing the Ph.D., Ernesto went to Miami, Florida to work as a Postdoctoral Associate at a research laboratory of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the University of Miami’s Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies. Afterwards, in January 2010, Dr. Munoz joined the New Mexico Consortium (NMC) in Los Alamos as a Research Scientist. The NMC is a consortium between the Los Alamos National Laboratory and the three main research universities of New Mexico.

Even before finishing the Ph.D. Dr. Munoz was involved in leadership roles at the universities he studied, and with professional organizations such as the American Meteorological Society (AMS). In December 2004, Ernesto received a Helmut Landsberg Scholarship from the Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science in recognition of his support in the organization of student visits to climate research centers in the greater Washington D.C. area. Also, during his Ph.D. candidacy, Ernesto was graduate representative of the Faculty Affairs Committee (FAC) that advises and responds to the University Senate on matters related to Faculty personnel. Ernesto has also been a member of the AMS Air-Sea Interactions Committee, and of the AMS Board on Women and Minorities, both of which have about 12 members (by invitation) for 3-year terms. His most recent professional service (volunteering) experience has been as “technical writing mentor” in the Significant Opportunities for Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) summer program of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR).

Dr. Stacey Nicholls, Assistant Professor, Mathematics, Anne Arundel Community College

Thesis: Column Generation in Predictor-Corrector Methods for Solving Linear Programs
University of Maryland College Park
Department of Applied Mathematics & Statistics, and Scientific Computation

Dr. Nicholls is a former PROMISE Peer Mentor.

Dr. Jocelyn Reader, completed her undergraduate education at Goucher College in 2002 with a B.A. in Biological Sciences, a concentration in Molecular Biology and a minor in Chemistry. In 2009, Dr. Reader earned her Ph.D. in Human Genetics from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. Currently, she is a Post Doctoral Researcher at the University of Maryland Greenebaum Cancer Center and an adjunct Associate Professor at University of Maryland Baltimore University College.

Dr. Joan Y. Reede, Harvard University

Joan Y. Reede, MD, MPH, MS, MBA

Appointed as the first Dean for Diversity and Community Partnership in January 2002, Joan Y. Reede is responsible for the under-represented minority faculty at Harvard Medical School (HMS).

In 1990, Dr. Reede founded the HMS Minority Faculty Development Program and currently serves as Faculty Director of the Community Outreach Programs. In 2008, she became the Director of the Harvard Catalyst Program for Faculty Development and Diversity. In addition, Dr. Reede holds the appointments of Associate Professor of Medicine at HMS, Associate Professor of Surgery, Human Development, and Health at the Harvard School of Public Health, and Assistant in Health Policy at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Prior to coming to HMS in 1989, Dr. Reede served as the medical director for a Boston community health center and for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Youth Services. She has also worked as a pediatrcian in community and academic health centers, juvenile prisons, and public schools.

In addition, in collaboration with the Massachusetts Medical Society and the New England Board of Higher Education, Dr. Reede founded the Biomedical Careers Program (BSCP). A collaborative, community-based organization, BSCP’s scope of involvement includes academia, private industry, medical centers, public education, and professional societies. BSCP’s goal is to identify, support, and provide mentoring for under-represented minority students, trainees, and professionals pursuing careers in the biomedical and health sciences.

Dr. Reede graduated from Brown University and Mount Sinai School of Medicine. She completed her pediatric residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, and a fellowship in child psychiatry at Children’s Hospital Boston. She holds an MPH and a MS in Health Policy and Management from Harvard School of Public Health, and an MBA from Boston University.

Dr. Erica Martin Richards received her B.S. in Biology from Spelman College in 1999. While in college, Erica was awarded a scholarship from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program which also provided her with paid internships during the summers. She subsequently completed 2 summers doing research in the Neuroimmunology Branch of the National Institutes of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS).

After graduating from Spelman, Erica entered the MD/Ph.D. Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. After completing her first two years of medical school, Erica then joined the Program in Neuroscience where she began working with Dr. Gary Fiskum, investigating the effects of high oxygen tensions on the brain following cardiac arrest and resuscitation. She completed her Ph.D. thesis in 2006 and then went on to her final 2 years of medical school, graduating with honors in 2008.

While attending medical school, Erica became interested in the field of psychiatry and decided to pursue residency in that area. She was accepted to the residency in Psychiatry at the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Erica is currently completing her last year of training and was recently selected as one of the Chief Residents for the year. Upon completion of her residency training, Erica plans to return to the NIH to perform research in the fields of women’s mental health and reproductive psychiatry.

Erica is married to Ramon Richards and they have a 10 month old son, Alexander.

Dr. William H. Robinson, Vanderbilt University

William H. Robinson received his B.S. in electrical engineering from the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1996 and his M.S. in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in 1998. He received his Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from Georgia Tech in 2003. In August 2003, Dr. Robinson joined the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Vanderbilt University as an Assistant Professor, and was promoted to Associate Professor in 2010.

He is a member of the Radiation Effects and Reliability (RER) research group and collaborates with both the Institute for Space and Defense Electronics (ISDE) and the Institute for Software Integrated Systems (ISIS) at Vanderbilt University. His research explores hardware and software tradeoffs to improve system performance, system reliability, and system security. Topics of interest include computer architecture design, integrated circuit (IC) design, rapid prototyping using field-programmable gate arrays.
Dr. Rodriguez is a professor in the Section of Molecular & Cellular Biology at UC Davis. He graduated with a B.S. in Biology from Fresno State University in 1969. As a graduate student with Professor Cedric Davern at U.C. Santa Cruz, he provided the first auto- radiographic proof for bidirectional DNA replication for the E. coli chromosome. Dr. Rodriguez received his Ph.D. in Biology at UC Santa Cruz in 1974. As an A.P. Giannini Foundation Fellow, Dr. Rodriguez received postdoctoral training in the laboratory of Herbert W. Boyer at U.C. San Francisco Medical Center from 1974-77.

While at UCSF, Dr. Rodriguez developed technologies that now serve as the foundation of the modern biotechnology industry including, the construction of the multipurpose cloning vector pBR322. Dr. Rodriguez joined the faculty at the U.C. Davis in 1977 and is actively involved in research and teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level. In 1988, Dr. Rodriguez was a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the International Center for Biotechnology at Osaka University, Japan and in 1991, he was a Visiting Scientist with the Human Genome Project at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory where he cloned and mapped genes on human chromosome 19. Dr. Rodriguez also founded and chaired the International Rice Genome Organization from 1989 to 1992, a group that helped lay the groundwork for the rice genome sequencing project. In 2000, Dr. Rodriguez co-founded the Laboratory for High Performance Computing and Informatics in the Section of Molecular and Cellular Biology at UC Davis and in 2003 he became director of the NIH Center of Excellence for Nutritional Genomics.

Dr. Rodriguez is a member of numerous scientific organizations and committees and he has served as an advisor to the NIH since 1988. He currently serves on the Advisory Council for the National Center for Monitory Health and Health Disparities at the NIH. He has published numerous articles and books on genetic engineering and biotechnology and currently holds 17 biotech patents.
in southern Louisiana and African American and American Indian unions. Her dissertation research is entitled Reading, Writing, and Radicalization: The Social Construction of Blackness in Prince George's County Public Schools.

Dr. Washington Cherry received a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and a Master of Teaching Middle/Secondary Biology degree from Hampton University. She holds a Graduate Certificate in Nonprofit studies from Johns Hopkins University. She has also earned a Master of Arts degree in Public Anthropology and a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Anthropology with a concentration in Race, Gender, and Social Justice from the American University.

Dr. Washington Cherry has worked in many capacities ranging from middle school science teacher to consultant in philanthropy on issues of racial equity, diversity, and inclusion to adjunct faculty at The American University and University of Maryland College. Dr. Washington Cherry is the Founder and Principal Associate/CEO of Phoenix Cultural Resources, LLC, a consulting firm that conducts socio-cultural research, assessment and training for educational institutions (K-12 and Higher Education), philanthropy, and non-profit organizations that have a vision for social change.

Dr. Kaye Wise Whitehead
Assistant Professor, Loyola University
Kaye Wise Whitehead is Assistant Professor of Communication at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, MD. Her research and publications address the complex relationships between enslaved and freeborn nineteenth century black women; and investigates the ways in which race, class, and gender coalesce in American classrooms, political environments, and social arenas. Her work has appeared in The American African National Biography, The Encyclopedia of African-American History, a forthcoming Civil War issue of the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, and the forthcoming book, Before Obama. Dr. Whitehead also served as the Historical Content Editor for Red Lion Press’ Children’s Historical Fiction Graphic Novel Series and as the Historian/Lesson Plan Writer for the National Visionary Leadership Project, under the direction of Renee Pouissant, Dr. Camille Cosby, and the late Dr. John Hope Franklin. Dr. Whitehead has worked with K-12 teachers through lectures and workshops throughout the country training them in how to become culturally responsive teachers in diverse environments. Dr. Whitehead earned a MA in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame’s Joan B. Kroc Center for International Peace Studies and her BA in History from Lincoln University, PA. She earned a Ph.D. in Language, Literacy, and Culture, with a special emphasis in Black Women’s Archival History from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She has been awarded an Albert M. Greenfield Foundation Fellowship in African American History at the Library Company of Philadelphia, a Lord Baltimore Fellowship from the Maryland Historical Society, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend. Dr. Whitehead recently finished editing her manuscript, Emile Davis, Her Life, In Her Own Words (currently under review at the University of South Carolina Press) and lives with her husband and two sons in Maryland.

Dr. Christopher M. Whit, Augustana College
Dr. Christopher M. Whit has been living in Rock Island, Illinois since moving there to the area take a position as a professor in the political science department at Augustana College in August of 2007. After arriving at Augustana Dr. Whit became a principle founder and faculty member in the college’s Africana Studies program. He also advises a number of student organizations and works closely with the administration on issues pertaining to diversity in the faculty, administration, staff and even the student body. Dr. Whit has made special efforts to reach beyond the boundaries of the Augustana campus into Rock Island, the Quad Cities community and across the country in many instances of service and outreach. Dr. Whit’s doctoral research was on the impact of the racial wealth gap on Black political participation. Currently one of his most popular courses is entitled, Race, Wealth and Inequality in American Politics. In addition to that course he also teaches courses on The United States Government, Presidency, and Congress as well as courses on Parties, Politics and Citizenship. A number of his conference presentations and works in the publication process provide varied takes on inequality along line of race, ethnicity, gender, and social class in America’s politics, government, and society and even in higher education. Currently, Dr. Whit is working on a book project on the roots, realities and legacies of inequalities in American politics and government. Over the years prior to moving to the Quad Cities and especially since, Dr. Whit has taken a special interest in the community around him. He has worked to build connections between the Augustana community and the greater community. This is especially the case with communities of color. Whenever speaking to audience, especially those including children, Dr. Whit stresses the need for equality of opportunity and persistence fighting for equality and excellence. It is the hope of Dr. Whit to impress upon as many young people as possible through his teaching, scholarship, service and outreach that the the fight never ends.

Dr. Asha-Lateef Williams, Scientific Reviewer, Kelly Government Services.
Ph.D., Special Education; Early Childhood Special Education – 2010
“IDEA Part C referrals, determination of eligibility, and services recommended for infants and toddlers affected by illegal substances: A policy implementation study”. Committee: Margaret McLaughlin; Paula Beckman, Joan Lieber, Brenda Jones Harden, Brenda Hussey-Gardner. This study described data from a large-scale state Part C database to address the research questions: What were the reasons, counts, and trends over time for referrals to the local infants and toddlers program for infants and toddlers who were documented to be exposed to and/or affected by illegal substance abuse? For determination of eligibility for Part C Services for infants and toddlers who were documented to be exposed to and/or affected by illegal substance abuse? For services recommended for infants and toddlers who were documented to be exposed to and/or affected by illegal substance abuse? Analyses included examination of frequencies, percentages, chi square with phi adjustment for associations, and trends.


Dr. Calvin Williams
Ph.D., Special Education; Early Childhood Special Education – 2010
Originally from Baltimore Maryland, Dr. Calvin Williams graduated for the Meyerhoff Scholarship Program at the University of Baltimore College of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. He went on to attend the University of Maryland School of Medicine completing the M.D./Ph.D. program in 2011. His dissertation research focused on applying immunogenomic techniques to the identification of potential antigens from Pre-Erythrocytic stages Plasmodium. Dr. Calvin Williams is currently a first year internal medicine resident at Christiana Hospital in Newark Delaware. He plans to pursue an Infectious Disease Fellowship upon completion of Residency training. He ultimately wants to combine his medical and research training in development and testing of vaccines.

Dr. Stacey Simmons Williams, Assistant Professor in the School of Pharmacy
at College of Notre Dame and PROMISE @ UMB Alumni – Pharmacology & Neuroscience
Dr. Stacey Williams has a B.A Chemistry - University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, Maryland, 2003 and a Ph.D. Pharmaceutical Sciences - University of Maryland, School of Pharmacy, Baltimore, Maryland, 2008. Dr. Williams research interests is Elucidation of signaling pathways mediating the effects of psychostimulant agents, dopamine receptor linked signaling, brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF), TrkB receptor signaling, assessment of reward behavior and behavioral sensitization.

Dr. Stacey Williams is a member of and also affiliated with the Society for Neuroscience, the American Society for Pharmacology and Experimental Therapeutics and the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

Dr. Marcella Wilson
Dr. Wilson is a computer scientist and technology expert with expertise in many areas including, social media, blogging, and education. She has conducted extensive research on how online social networks evolve over time and how they are linked to off-line, social networks. Dr. Wilson was the first to ever conduct research on how the older adult population uses social media and blogs in contrast to the young adult population. Her cutting edge
research has been the focus of many conference papers and publications. Throughout her educational and professional career, Dr. Wilson received numerous fellowships and awards from NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, University of Maryland Baltimore County and Bowie State University (UMBC). As a professor at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, Dr. Wilson taught graduate courses in the Information Systems department.

Dr. Wilson received her Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. She has the distinction of being the first African-American female to obtain a doctorate in Computer Science from UMBC. She also holds a M.S. in Computer Science from Bowie State University and a B.A. in Journalism from Washington Bible College.

Dr. Beatriz Zayas, Associate Professor, Universidad Metropolitana

Dr. Zayas is an associate professor at the School of Environmental Affairs, Metropolitan University (UMET) in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Dr. Zayas is the director of the Chemical, Molecular and Environmental Toxicological Laboratory where she develops her research and mentors students in molecular and environmental toxicology. Dr. Zayas is also the coordinator of the Environmental Risk Assessment specialty at the graduate school and teaches Risk assessment and Environmental Toxicology. Prior to joining the Metropolitan University, she completed her Ph.D. degree on Molecular Toxicology from University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health and was a post doctoral scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research at MIT gave her the opportunity to integrate toxicological analysis in drug development as well as in the study of the health effects of environmental contaminants. Her current research in environmental toxicology involves the monitoring and testing bioactivity of environmental agents and/or carcinogens. She also collaborates with medicinal chemists and is involved in the development and testing of new antineoplastic drugs. Her efforts in drug development and testing allowed her to submit a patent for the development of novel fluorescent markers with potential applications in the biomedical field. Dr. Zayas has also been recognized by distinguished agencies and organizations such as the USDA and the American Association for Cancer Research (AARC) for her research in cancer and the mentoring of minority students in Puerto Rico.

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**Qi Cao, J.D., Coordinator**

**Evaluation Team:**
- Sharon A. LaVoy, Associate Director, Office of Institutional Research, Planning and Assessment (IRPA), University of Maryland College Park
- Jessica L. Mislevy, Ph.D., Evaluator
DONATIONS

In loving memory of two of our former PROMISE Peer Mentors, we would like for you to consider donating to their respective memorial funds. Dr. Angela Grant was a graduate student in the Mathematics department at the University of Maryland College Park, and Jessica Soto Perez was a graduate student in the Chemical Engineering department at UMBC.

DR. ANGELA E. GRANT SCHOLARSHIP

Donate to the Dr. Angela E. Grant Memorial Scholarship Fund

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About Angela Grant:

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JESSICA SOTO PÉREZ Bridge Fund

Donate to the Jessica Soto Pérez University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez – UMBC Graduate School Bridge Fund

This fund will provide financial support to students from the University of Puerto Rico Mayaguez to attend UMBC’s Graduate School.

Contributions can be sent to:

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Please make checks payable to: UMBC Foundation and write “Jessica Bridge Fund” in the memo space of your check. Contributions can also be made online, http://www.umbc.edu/giving/give. Check the box marked “other” and write “Jessica Bridge Fund” in the box. Contributions to the Jessica Bridge Fund are tax deductible.

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Official Hashtag for the 2011 PROMISE SSI is #PROMISE2011.”

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