

# Multicultural Apprenticeship Program

## June 27-August 6, 2010

### Audience

More than 25 high school students in the 10th & 11th grades from across the state.

### Funding

The Multicultural Apprenticeship Program (MAP) is jointly funded by the College of Agriculture & Natural Resources and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

### Objectives

MAP was designed to identify students interested in pursuing a degree in agriculture and natural resources at Michigan State University. The goals of MAP are to reach out to students who have had to overcome significant obstacles and exhibited leadership skills in the face of adversity, and who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate in a challenging university preparatory program.

MAP was developed to accomplish multiple objectives, perhaps the most important of which was:

- To encourage MAP participants to graduate from high school.
- To prepare high school youth for college.
- To expose students to majors and career opportunities in agriculture and natural resources and encourage them to pursue postsecondary education, preferably in an agriculture and natural resources.
- To assist in recruiting students who are not traditionally from an agricultural background.
- To ensure students understand the process of applying to a university.

### Description

MAP is a six-week research experience for high school students in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade who demonstrate academic talent and indicate a strong interest in science and/or in agriculture, natural resources, and related disciplines. MAP students are matched with CANR faculty members to work on a research project, where participants gain hands-on experience in laboratory and field research; work with computers and other "high tech" equipment; and interact with other students, faculty members, and professionals. Selection into the program is competitive, which an application review committee selects MAP participants. The committee consists of faculty and staff in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

MAP is designed to give high school students the opportunity to experience college life, to explore the many exciting educational and career opportunities in the agricultural and food sciences, natural resources, and related fields, and to help re-enforce academic skills that will enable students to perform competitively on college entrance exams and in their chosen area of college study. MAP students participate in field trips, leadership seminars, and a number of other educational, social, and cultural activities. MAP students also develop leadership skills and improve academic, social, and cultural competencies. A critical component of MAP is that each student is provided with preparation materials for the ACT which is the standardized achievement examination for college admissions. MAP culminates with each participant submitting a final paper and giving a 5 to 7 minute oral presentation on their experience in the program.

### CANR MAP Mentors and Department Participation

MAP participants work with MSU researchers from one of departments or schools within the college. The dedicated mentors from each department provide meaningful work experiences for the MAP students and make the program an effective tool for introducing students to the myriad of educational and career opportunities in the CANR at MSU.

### Impacts

In 2003-2008, pre-and-post surveys were conducted for pre-college participants in the one-week Agriculture and Natural Resources Institute for Multicultural Students (AIMS) Program and the six-week Multicultural Apprenticeship Program (MAP). The MAP participants gained an increased understanding of college in the following areas: (a) courses needed for college; (b) the college experience; and (c) positive perceptions of agriculture and natural resources. Students participating in the six-week residential program left campus with a more positive perception of agriculture and natural resources than those who resided on campus for only one week.

Of more **than 1,000 students** who have participated in our summer programs 249 have earned Bachelor degrees of which 144 are Bachelor of Science degrees, 76 Master degrees of which 17 are Masters of Science degrees, and 14 Doctors. These numbers do not include many of those participants who are currently enrolled.

Daryl Allen, a Manager for DuPont Crop Protection, summarizes his experience with MAP as follows:

*"MAP was the driving force that led me and a number of my peers to a career in agriculture. I was one of 50 students from Renaissance High School in Detroit, Michigan that was selected to participate in the seven week 1985 MAP Program at Michigan State University... Without MAP, I would not have enjoyed the 20 years of employment within the industry."*

### Additional Significant Information

#### Pre-College ACT Collaboration:

During the last four years the CANR pre-college program director has taken the lead on facilitating and collaborating with other colleges and departments to expose pre-college participants to the ACT. This collaboration allows pooling of funding to purchase an online American College Testing (ACT) component. Instead of each individual program purchasing ACT preparation materials at a higher rate the pooling of resources allows the programs to purchase the materials at a bulk rate allowing a tremendous cost savings to each program.

### Contact Information:

Leonard Savala

Director of Undergraduate Diversity

MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

Phone: 517-353-1835 ext. 107

Fax: 517-355-8364

Email: [savalale@msu.edu](mailto:savalale@msu.edu)

Website: <http://www.canr.msu.edu>

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