

## **Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference draws statewide participation for first-time event**

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**EAST LANSING, Mich.** – A Michigan State University effort to bring together state leaders in education, workforce development, and government to strengthen support for pre-college and youth development programming has produced an overwhelming response.

Nearly 250 participants have registered to attend the **Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference** on Friday, November 21, 2008 at the Kellogg Hotel Conference Center on the campus of Michigan State University in East Lansing. The event runs from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



“Our goal is to bring together professionals who work in pre-college programs and youth development efforts, and then help identify collaborations, recognize successful programs, discuss emerging trends, communicate results, and act as a catalyst for continuing action,” said Hiram E. Fitzgerald, Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement.

One keynote speaker will help conference participants look at the road ahead. Bryan Taylor, president and founder of EduGuide, will discuss the constant pressure pre-college programs are under to reach new levels, from decreasing drop-outs to increasing college applications, all in the midst of a struggling economy.

A second keynote with MSU Professor Emerita JoAnne Keith features a presentation about how colleges and universities can help young people develop assets to succeed in postsecondary education and life, and how global changes are affecting the role of pre-college programs.

“MSU is working to enhance data tracking, increase research, and develop innovative pre-college programs to better meet the needs of Michigan youth,” said Lee N. June, Vice-President for Student Affairs and Services and Associate Provost for Academic Student Services and Multicultural Issues.

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### **UNIVERSITY OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT**

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Attendance at the conference is expected to represent nearly all of the 15 public Michigan universities, as well as the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, Michigan community colleges, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth, Detroit Public Schools and a variety of other organizations.

“Pre-college programs fill a vital role in better preparing youth for college, but they also serve as a mechanism for helping us recruit a diverse and better prepared undergraduate population,” said Jim Cotter, Director of Admissions for Michigan State University.

First steps will be to increase dialogue among pre-college professionals within Michigan and stress the importance of establishing exemplary programs with measurable outcomes. The event is also designed to draw attention to meeting the needs of the students, higher education institutions, and communities.

The conference is jointly sponsored by MSU's University Outreach and Engagement, Academic Student Services and Multicultural Issues, and The Office of Admissions.

Visit [www.outreach.msu.edu/events/precollege](http://www.outreach.msu.edu/events/precollege) for more information.

Response to Michigan State University's organizing efforts have already resulted in planning future events on a rotating basis, with the 2009 conference at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

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