



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2011

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Four universities and nine community colleges unite to accelerate statewide development of leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math

LANSING, MI. – Four of Michigan’s flagship universities and nine top community colleges are embarking on a newly expanded collaboration to accelerate statewide development of leaders in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). At a February 3 kick-off event on the Lansing Community College campus, the institutions announced the reauthorization and expansion of the Michigan-Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (MI-LSAMP).

The University of Michigan, Michigan State University, Western Michigan University, and Wayne State University established the MI-LSAMP in 2005, with support from the National Science Foundation (NSF). They committed to significantly increase the number of under-represented minority students graduating with degrees in science, technology, engineering, and math.

“Our state and nation need all the talented college graduates we can produce. Just last week, President Obama said that for America to compete globally, our nation must ‘out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world.’ LSAMP answers that challenge, and we look forward to continued success at colleges and universities across Michigan.” said Mary Sue Coleman, president of the University of Michigan and principal investigator on the NSF grant.

During MI-LSAMP’s Phase I (2005–2010), award of these baccalaureates increased by nearly 50 percent.

In Phase II, nine of Michigan's top community colleges are joining the alliance. The MI-LSAMP community college partners are: Grand Rapids Community College; Kalamazoo Valley Community College; Kellogg Community College; Lake Michigan College; Lansing Community College; Macomb Community College; Muskegon Community College; Washtenaw Community College; and Wayne County Community College District.

"Community colleges play a key role in helping students increase their competencies in science, technology, engineering and math, and to encourage them to transfer to universities to pursue degrees in these subjects," said Lansing Community College President Brent Knight. "STEM education is a top priority at Lansing Community College. We are undertaking a \$20 million renovation of our Arts & Sciences Building to provide state-of-the-art science labs that rival the best undergraduate labs in the nation."

During Phase I, MI-LSAMP Scholars engaged in opportunities that included: a pre-first-year program to prepare for rigorous curricula as incoming freshmen, undergraduate research assistanceships, and internships and cooperative education experiences. Phase II will continue these programs and initiatives, and add collaborations with the new community college members of the alliance.

More information on the MI-LSAMP program is available online at: www.engin.umich.edu/students/mi-lsamp

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