

Department

School of Forest Resources and Environmental Sciences

Liaison

Tara Bal and Yvette Dickinson

2016 Diversity Initiatives and/or Goals

- Began steps to establish an endowment at Michigan Tech to support diversity in the Natural Resources profession.
- Established SFRES working group on diversity and inclusion
- SFRES had a Lunch and Learn session on Diversity and Inclusion open to all SFRES students/faculty/staff in April 2016 to gather input from the SFRES community on Diversity and Inclusion issues. SFRES will host a follow-up forum presentation to inform SFRES of outcomes of the Lunch and Learn, and kick-off the working group. This forum will include a planning session to focus our efforts, both for individuals and the broader school community.
- Conducted research focusing on Diversity and Inclusion issues in Natural Resources producing publications and presentations at National Conferences
- Hired Gerald Jondreau as Director of Recruiting, Marketing, and Communications. Jerry graduated from Michigan Tech in 2012 with a B.S. in Forestry (cum laude), and since then (until very recently) was employed by the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community (KBIC) as Tribal Forester and Director of their Forestry Department, and by Keweenaw Bay Ojibwa Community College as an adjunct faculty member. During this period he was also a Federal Wildland Firefighter with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and deeply involved with the Great Lakes Intertribal Fish and Wildlife Commission. Jerry will focus his efforts on recruiting a larger and more diverse student population into SFRES.
- The Dean presented a report to Richard and Bonnie Robbins as the Robbins Chair in Sustainable Resources, informing them of SFRES efforts in “Educational reform in Natural Resources focusing in Diversity and Inclusion”
- Worked with Center for Science and Environmental Outreach, focused on hosting and visiting African American students and teachers in Detroit
- Worked with the Detroit Public Lighting Authority on a Forest Biomaterials Project involving Detroit youth.
- Worked with Michigan SFI and DNR on introducing inner city Detroit students to forestry and related areas of natural resources (attended Greening of Detroit, Green Corp Field Trips, Metro Detroit Youth Day)
- Hosted the Natural Resources Department at Salish-Kootenai College in Pablo, MT, to develop a cooperative agreement with them.
- Began developing linkages with Keweenaw Bay Ojibway Community College and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, including basic instruction to position students to enter MTU after 2-year college, and other outreach programs such as the KBIC Seasonal Culture Camps and Youth Stewardship Project in Alberta
- Exhibited and attended American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) Student Conference
- SFRES student, Stefan Hupperts, is serving as the Diversity Liaison for the School’s Graduate Student Organization. This is a new position for them.
- A goal of SFRES is to sponsor or co-sponsor (host or co-host) at least one scientist or natural resource manager from an underrepresented group per academic year.
- Update SFRES Diversity plan
- Work to Increase the proportions of minority and female students in SFRES to match the national averages for natural resources programs at NAUFRP Institutions (National Association of University Forest Resources Programs) by 2025