

## **MSU Hosts Statewide Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference**

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**EAST LANSING, Mich.** – Preparing youth for college and career is a journey that involves collaborative efforts, strategies, encouragement, persistence, and positive attitudes. The [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Michigan Pre-College and Youth Outreach Conference](#) brought together state leaders in K-12 and higher education, business, nonprofit organizations, government, philanthropic groups, and others to discuss preparing students for success.

Michigan State University hosts the event on Monday, November 19, 2012 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing.

In recent years there has been a growing effort to bring together professionals and practitioners across Michigan who are involved with programs geared to pre-college aged students, primarily in middle school and high school.

Hiram E. Fitzgerald, MSU Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement is the Honorary Chairperson of the 2012 conference Steering Committee. “Pre-college and youth programs help prepare and strengthen youth for their experiences beyond high school, and that in turn benefits Michigan’s workforce development and long-range economic impact,” he said.

“Our goal is to work together, increase our communications and visibility with each other as well as broader audiences, recognize successful programs and partnerships, and act as a catalyst for continuing action.”

Speakers include John Austin, president of the [Michigan State Board of Education](#) and a Brookings Institution senior fellow; and, Philip Power, founder and chairman of [The Center for Michigan](#), and former chair of the Michigan Job Training Coordinating Council.

Conference registrations represent nearly all of the 15 public Michigan universities, as well as numerous Michigan community colleges, the Michigan Department of Education, Detroit and Grand Rapids Public Schools and other state intermediate school districts, the Michigan Nonprofit Association, and a variety of other organizations.

Michigan State University was the organizing host of the first conference in 2008, resulting in subsequent events held at the University of Michigan, and Wayne State University, as well as future events now scheduled at other Michigan universities on a rotating basis. Aimed at increasing dialogue among pre-college professionals within Michigan and stressing the importance of establishing exemplary programs with measurable outcomes,



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the event is designed to draw attention to meeting the needs of the students, higher education institutions, and communities.

Planning leadership for this year's conference was provided by three co-chairs: Zachary Constan, outreach coordinator with the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory; Jaime DeMott, director of the MSU Community Music School; and, Judy Ratkos, senior program leader for MSU Extension. Sponsors include MSU's Office of the Associate Provost for University Outreach and Engagement, Office of Admissions, Office of the Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, and Lyman Briggs College; Michigan College Access Network, Michigan Technological University Summer Youth Programs, and Mahoney and Associates, Inc.

Visit [outreach.msu.edu/precollege](https://outreach.msu.edu/precollege) for more information.

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