



# Southern Regional Education Board

## SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program

### News & Notes - Winter 2007

Now in our 13th year...715 scholars served...335 program graduates...13 Annual Institutes on Teaching and Mentoring

#### DIRECTOR'S CHAIR

Greetings, scholars and friends! In this past summer's newsletter, I acknowledged the celebration of the program's 300th graduate. I am pleased and proud to announce that we have already hit the 335 mark. This is tremendous, and we **SALUTE YOU**, scholars! At this rate, the 400 graduate mark is just around the corner! It is this kind of determination and focus by scholars that makes this program one of the best—and most successful—programs in the country. We also realized this year for the first time that program graduates out-number those scholars currently matriculating in the program. This will have important implications for program services provided in the future.

Speaking of success, the Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring concluded its 13th annual meeting in Miami, Florida, October 26-29. Once again, the Institute achieved a new attendance milestone—more than 1,000 participants. Preliminary evaluation results and firsthand reports indicate another very successful venture. The Institute continues to provide professional as well as personal skills training, mentoring and networking opportunities for scholars, and recruiting opportunities for institutions. Make plans to join us in Arlington, Virginia, October 25-28, 2007. See you there!

#### Issues, Concerns, Reminders

- ◆ We need your help to identify and encourage qualified SREB scholar prospects. The past couple of years we have enrolled two of our largest incoming classes. To continue this momentum, it is important to bring the best candidates forward. Your help in identifying and encouraging these scholars to apply to the program is greatly appreciated. Also, we are working with several states to expand the number of scholars that are supported in the program. Together, these initiatives will continue to propel us in the right direction.
- ◆ There will be a new application procedure for scholars who apply for program support. (See feature for additional details.) The new procedure will help clarify and simplify the application process for both the doctoral and dissertation components.
- ◆ Some scholars seem confused about the need to report grades once they are not receiving direct (stipend) funding from SREB. It is imperative that all matriculating scholars report grades as well as adhere to original program guidelines. The program continues to provide services (professional development, Institute on Teaching and Mentoring, advocacy, etc.) even though direct funding may have ceased. Remember, your support package is based on a signed agreement/contract between the state, your institution, SREB and YOU.
- ◆ Don't forget to inform us of any change in status that impacts you. We want to provide the best services possible, but without current and accurate information, we are limited in what we are able to do.
- ◆ Full-time status is a program requirement. To be safe, any exceptions should be cleared through the Program office.

Hope your semester was successful and your holiday full of family and friends.

Happy Holidays and New Year!

*Ansley A. Abraham*

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# Important Things to Remember for Current Scholars

## SCHOLAR RESPONSIBILITIES

- ✓ Update and keep your online Scholar Directory listing current.
- ✓ Notify the Doctoral Scholars Program immediately regarding any change in contact information, enrollment, employment or academic status.
- ✓ Send in a grade report or dissertation progress report each semester.
- ✓ Maintain full-time enrollment for **ALL** semesters while being actively funded.
- ✓ Attend the Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring each fall.
- ✓ Get your Ph.D. and join the professoriate!

Don't forget to visit the Scholar Zone to access the Scholar Directory, the Scholar Support Discussion Board and other great things to help you on your journey!

[www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org)

Go directly to information for current scholars by clicking on the link below



## OTHER GUIDELINES

- ✓ You **MUST** advise SREB if you are not a full-time student/taking less than nine hours/units. This includes audits/independent study or anything that is not a regular class. You **MUST** advise SREB if you are taking or teaching a course over the Web.
- ✓ You **MUST NOT** be employed under any circumstances outside the department part time or full time. Any employment in the department must be reported and approved.
- ✓ You **MUST** report any additional funds received while receiving program support, including scholarships, fellowships, assistantships, grants or other monies, regardless of when you receive the monies.

## IMPORTANT UPDATES

### **\*\*New Doctoral Scholar Application Process\*\***

The 2007-2008 SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program application process will take on a new look this year. In the past, students had to make a copy of their graduate school application and submit it to SREB as our application. This year scholars will have to download the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars application and submit it along with other items specifically on the application.

### **\*\*Grades and Dissertation Updates\*\***

This is just a reminder that grades are due each term. In the last newsletter we advised all scholars that only two e-mail request for grades and dissertation updates would be sent before stipends were held.

- ✓ Grades may be e-mailed each term.
- ✓ Grades should include your term GPA and overall GPA.
- ✓ If you take research hours or dissertation hours that are pass/fail, you must send a short narrative.
- ✓ Dissertation scholars should submit a short narrative outlining your progress this term and plans for the next term. Any hardships or breakthroughs, presentations, etc., that are noteworthy should also be included. Please include your anticipated final defense date in these narratives.

Remember that when you defend your dissertation and the committee signs off, we consider you a SREB graduate. We understand that sometimes the committee will sign off even with changes to be made...if you get the signatures we consider you a completer. Please contact SREB as soon as you defend or have a scheduled date. This is very important as we have a calendar and your specific defense date and time are posted on this calendar. This allows us to track your progress, and it is very exciting for us to see the calendar covered with defense dates.

**SENDING THIS INFORMATION IS A REQUIREMENT FOR CONTINUATION OF SUPPORT.**

### **E-MAIL YOUR INFORMATION TO:**

Robbie Ouzts, Scholar Coordinator  
[robbie.ouzs@sreb.org](mailto:robbie.ouzs@sreb.org)

**Call us toll-free if you have questions!**

**1-877-SREB-PHD**

**1-877-773-2743**

# SREB Hosts the Largest Institute Ever!

## Highlights from the 13th Annual Institute on Teaching and Mentoring October 26 - 29, 2006, in Miami, Florida

### THE INSTITUTE AT A GLANCE...

**1,031** participants attended  
(our largest group ever)

**70** different sessions held

**45** different institutions recruited

**43** different states plus the  
Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,  
France and South Africa were  
represented at this year's event



We've completed another successful Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring. Many long-time participants remarked that this year's event was our best ever. This year's Institute was in Miami, Florida, and there were faculty, scholars, guests, state representatives and leaders from almost every state on hand for the four-day event. This year featured several new sessions and new presenters, including a session on making the Institute work for you beyond the event. This year we had two different awards presentations-one on Friday night for program graduates and one on Saturday for special awards and Mentor of the Year.

This year's Institute welcomed participants from all over the United States and each region of the compact, as well as special groups. Some of the groups in attendance this year included: Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP), Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Minority Ph.D. Program, Bridges to the Professoriate Program (NIH), Gates Millennium Scholars Program, National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Scholars (NSF) and the Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program.

**INSTITUTE ATTENDANCE  
IS MANDATORY FOR  
ACTIVELY FUNDED  
SCHOLARS**

**IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF  
YOU ARE REQUIRED TO  
ATTEND, PLEASE CALL US  
AT 1-877-SREB-PHD**

**2007 INSTITUTE**

**OCTOBER 25-28**

**ARLINGTON,  
VIRGINIA**



Don't forget to visit our Web site at

[www.instituteonteachingandmentoring.org](http://www.instituteonteachingandmentoring.org)

We are looking for employment announcements, grant awards, community service awards, faculty accomplishments, travel abroad, special research, appointments to boards or commissions, etc. We are happy to try to publish photographs if they are submitted.

### **SREB Graduates Recognized at Graduate Fellowship Reception hosted by Virginia Institute of Technology's Graduate School**



Left to right: Virginia Tech's President Dean Steger, SREB Doctoral Scholar Sharnnia Artis, Virginia Tech's Dean DePauw and SREB Doctoral Scholar Antoinette Stroter.

The SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program was one of 10 fellowship programs recognized on November 2, 2006, by Virginia Tech's Graduate School and President's office during a Graduate Fellowship Reception recognizing the university's graduate fellowship recipients. SREB Doctoral Scholars Antoinette Stroter and Sharnnia Artis were present to represent SREB.

## **GOOD NEWS!**

- 📖 Congratulations to Dr. Eugenia Cox-Fuenzalida, who has been granted tenure at the University of Oklahoma in the Department of Psychology.
- 📖 Dr. Felecia Taylor gave birth to a baby boy, Zachary Taylor, on December 5, 2006, at Conway Regional Medical Center in Conway, Arkansas. Little Zachary weighed in at 8lbs, 10 oz and measured at 21 inches. Congratulations on your new bundle of joy!!!
- 📖 Dr. Kimberly Adams has been selected by the Junior Statesman Foundation to teach this summer at Georgetown University. Dr. Adams will teach Advanced Placement American Government through August 6, in the Junior Statesman Summer School Program for High School Students. Congratulations!!
- 📖 Dr. Shanta Harrison Proctor has been named the new executive director of the Governor's Office of Women's Policy in Louisiana. Dr. Proctor will lead the agency in women's policy research in areas including education and training, economics and employment, and health and safety. Congratulations, Dr. Proctor!
- 📖 Congratulations to Dr. Selina Vasquez, who has received another FIPSE grant. This grant focuses on correlating math and science.
- 📖 Dr. Natasha Satcher, who earned her doctorate in Human Performance from the University of Southern Mississippi, shared her experience in the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program in December's issue of *The Facilitator*. This publication is produced by the Mississippi Board of Trustees of State Institutions of Higher Learning.

### **Spotlight on an AGEP Graduate: Raul Armendariz**

Raul Armendariz received his Ph.D. in Nuclear Physics from New Mexico State University in May 2007. He received a M.S. in Astrophysics from the University of Texas at El Paso and a B.S. in Physics from Loyola University in Chicago. Currently he is serving in a postdoctoral physics appointments at Brookhaven Laboratory and Harvard University. Raul was a participant in the AGEP at New Mexico State University. Raul attended the Compact Institutes in 2003, 2004 and 2005. Raul's postdoctoral assignment is very exciting. He is working on the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) Project. The LSST is a proposed ground-based 8.4-meter, 10 square-degree-field telescope that will provide digital imaging of faint astronomical objects across the entire sky, night after night. The LSST will provide unprecedented three-dimensional maps of the mass distribution in the Universe, in addition to the traditional images of luminous stars and galaxies. The LSST also will provide a comprehensive census of our solar system, including potentially hazardous asteroids as small as 100 meters in size. The LSST research and development effort is funded in part by the National Science Foundation and funding from private donations, in-kind support at Department of Energy laboratories and other entities. For more information about the LSST, go to [http://www.lsst.org/lsst\\_home.shtml](http://www.lsst.org/lsst_home.shtml).

## Doctoral Scholars Association Announces Two New Initiatives!

The Doctoral Scholars Association and Doctoral Scholars Program are pleased to announce the establishment of two new exciting initiatives. Both initiatives reflect the spirit of the SREB-State Doctoral Scholars Program motto, "More Than a Check and a Handshake" and the pay-it-forward attitude of the program. The Doctoral Scholars Program prides itself in being there for students and providing services through the graduate school process and into scholars' professional careers. The Doctoral Scholars Association provides an opportunity for students to give back to the program and pay it forward by supporting service initiatives and supporting scholar achievement.

The first new initiative is the **Service Grant Award**. This award will encourage and support service initiatives that promote minority student achievement on campus or in the community. The Service Grant Award is designed to encourage program graduates to "give back," by engaging in service projects that promote and support educational achievement at all levels (elementary, middle grades, high school, college and graduate school). Through a proposal and review process, two \$500 awards were made. Details may be found on the DSP site.

### The first Service Grant Awards were presented this year to:

**Dr. Sheila Witherspoon**, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of School Counseling, Western Michigan University. Her project is titled "Initiative to Steer African American Girls to Explore S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)-Based Careers".

**Dr. Pamela M. Leggett-Robinson**, Assistant Professor, Chemistry, Tuskegee University. Her project's title is "Science on Saturdays (SOS)".

### Congratulations to both scholars!

We received many wonderful applications; however, we could only award two service grants this year. As graduates continue to support the pay-it-forward initiatives, please send us updates, pictures and news releases about projects you are involved in. We will accept proposals/applications for the 2007-2008 Service Grant Awards in fall 2007. Winners will be announced at the 2007 Institute on Teaching and Mentoring in Arlington, Virginia.

The second initiative is the Doctoral Scholar Association Dissertation Award. When program scholars graduate they always inquire about how they can help/give back. The DSA came up with a tangible way for graduates to help: a scholar-sponsored dissertation year fellowship. This \$20,000, one-year award will be totally supported by the contributions from program graduates. With more than 300 graduates...and counting, it was felt that this was an achievable goal and would provide a direct and tangible benefit to a prospective Ph.D. candidate. Program graduates would be responsible for raising the entire \$20k needed to award this fellowship each year. All contributions are tax deductible. The goal is for the first DSA Dissertation Award to be granted in fall 2007. For this to happen, it will be necessary for all monies to be raised by August 2007. This means that we need graduates to make a commitment, to make donations to the Doctoral Scholars Association. We hope to announce the winner of the Doctoral Scholars Association Dissertation Award at the 2007-2008 Institute for Teaching and Mentoring in Arlington, Virginia.

Please send donations to The Doctoral Scholars Association, 592 10th Street N.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30318-5776.

Donation forms are available @ [http://www.sreb.org/programs/dsp/process/scholars\\_association.asp](http://www.sreb.org/programs/dsp/process/scholars_association.asp).

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## The National Science Foundation (NSF) Participation at the Miami Institute

The 13th Annual Compact for Faculty Diversity Institute on Teaching and Mentoring that was held October 26-29, 2006, in Miami, Florida, had 244 NSF attendees. Three programs from the National Science Foundation that participated were the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP), the Directorate for Biological Sciences, and the Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences. AGEP scholars and faculty from the following state and regional Alliances attended the Institute: Alabama, Central New York-Puerto Rico, City University of New York, Colorado PEAKS, Louisiana, Howard University-University of Texas at El Paso, Iowa, Maryland's PROMISE, Michigan, Midwest Crossroads, Mississippi, More Graduate Education @ Mountain States, New Mexico, North Carolina OPT-ED, Northeast, Puerto Rico, Rice Houston, Stony Brook University, University of California, Southeast, and Georgia Tech.

AGEP scholars who attended previous Institutes and have graduated with their Ph.D.s were recognized at a dinner and awards program. They include: Dr. Margot Brown, Tulane University; Dr. Johnny Davis, University of Florida; Dr. Prentiss Jones Jr., Western Michigan University; Dr. Melvena Martin, Tulane University; Dr. Justus Ortega, University of Colorado; Dr. Christina Pomales-Garcia, University of Puerto Rico; Dr. Keawin Sarjeant, University of Florida; Dr. Tyrone Spady, University of Maryland, Baltimore County; and Dr. Tracey Wayne, University of Maryland, College Park.

The compact also asks scholars to nominate an individual as Faculty Mentor of the Year. Scholars nominate those faculty advisors/mentors who have provided outstanding service as a mentor to a doctoral scholar. The AGEP Faculty Mentor of the Year award went to Dr. Philip Kutzko, professor of mathematics and director of the Iowa AGEP. Dr. Kutzko was nominated by AGEP scholar Kyndra Violetta Middleton, who is studying psychological and quantitative foundations at the University of Iowa.