

## Facilitators

**Brenda Alston-Mills** serves as the Associate Dean and Director for the Office of Diversity and Pluralism, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University. She lectures and has published on the topic of underrepresented groups and women in science. At NCSU with others, she examined curriculum transformation as it relates to diversity. She holds a Ph.D. in Zoology and is a Professor of Animal Science.

**Thomas Easley** works in the College of Natural Resources as the Director of Community Diversity. Thomas believes in investing in people to help them thrive in life. He has a B.S. in Forestry, an M.S. in Forest Genetics, and is working on his doctorate in Adult Ed.

**Robin Landsman** is a Family & Consumer Science Agent with Cooperative Extension. Formerly, Robin was a professional trainer with experience in curriculum design and facilitation of diversity education. She is also a member of the Diversity Catalyst Team. Robin has a M.P.A. and a M.S. in HR Training & Development.

**Harvey Lineberry, II** serves as the Assistant Dean for CALS Personnel and is a member of the "Change Agent States Project." Also, he is a co-facilitator of the joint NC State/NC A&T State Diversity Catalyst Team. He holds a B.S. in Business, an M.B.A. and a Ph.D. in Leadership Studies focusing on diversity as a leadership development tool at the CEO level.

**Robin Roper** serves as an Extension Associate in the Dept. of 4-H Youth Dev. & FCS focusing in Leadership, Volunteer and Community Development. Her interests are in the Asian-American cultural experience, women's issues, and Native American cultures. She holds a B.S. and a M.S. in Child Development and Family Relations and a M.A.Ed. in Community Agency Counseling.

**Bill Swallow** is a Professor Emeritus in the Dept. of Statistics. He is an ally and advocate for women, people of color, and has provided visible leadership for the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) community on campus. He has an A.B. in Social Relations (a combination of psychology and sociology), an M.S. in Fishery Biology, and a Ph.D. in Biological Statistics.

## Opening Doors Workshop

### CANR Sponsored Workshop Fees: (May 2009 Workshop)

CANR/MSUE/MAES Employee	\$0
MSU Non-CANR Employee	\$500
Non-MSU Employee	\$700

*Please make checks payable to **Michigan State University**. Refunds will only be granted for cancellations made within two weeks of workshop. Substitutions are allowable.*

*Please let us know if you have any accessibility or dietary needs.*

Registration covers the cost of lodging, meals, training, materials, and use of the meeting facility.

### MSU Employees Please Register at:

<http://web2.canr.msu.edu/odp/>

### Non Michigan State Employees:

**Please contact Barb McNeice to register and for payment details.**

### For More Information Contact:

Barb McNeice

Michigan State University

Office Diversity and Pluralism

College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

113 Agriculture Hall

E. Lansing, Michigan 48824

(517)432-1349

[mcneiceb@anr.msu.edu](mailto:mcneiceb@anr.msu.edu)

MICHIGAN STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## Opening Doors: A Personal and Professional Journey



### Sponsored by:

COLLEGE OF  
AGRICULTURE  
AND NATURAL  
RESOURCES  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

## What is Opening Doors?

*Opening Doors* is an overnight three-day retreat that lays the foundation for personal and organizational growth. Through this workshop participants explore a framework that deepens their diversity awareness and enhances their ability to create inclusive organizations. This workshop addresses personal and professional change as part of an understanding differences initiative of multicultural organizational development.

In the *Opening Doors* workshop participants will:

- Increase understanding of diversity by identifying and learning more about our own identity groups;
- Identify personal feelings and experiences related to cultural and other differences among people;
- Examine how practices of institutions, as well as our own personal practices, maintain inequalities among people and prevent us all from reaching our potential;
- Develop a framework and common language in order to facilitate change collectively;
- Identify practical strategies for implementing and supporting change;
- Build alliances and networks

## Who Can Participate?

Everyone in the **Michigan State University** organization! *Opening Doors* is beneficial to all employees including faculty, para-professionals, team leaders, support personnel, and administrators. Workshop participants represent a mixture of our organization. This combination of professionals adds a dimension of diversity that brings much richness to the process.

## Quotes from Past Participants:

*“Opening Doors was/is a great workshop. I attended the September 2007 workshop in North Carolina and I was delighted with the honesty of the people attending and the non-threatening atmosphere of the workshop. The workshop allowed for open and candid discussion regarding diversity and tolerance. I recommend Opening Doors to everyone who works with people.”* Walter Pett, Assistant Professor, Entomology

*“The Opening Doors experience provided me with the opportunity to continue my individual journey toward multicultural awareness and transformation while also providing me with a helpful framework to process issues related to privilege, power and how to be an effective anti-oppression ally in my professional and personal settings.”* Dionardo Pizaña, Diversity and Personnel Specialist, MSU Extension

*“The workshop provided me the opportunity to reflect on the ideas, and my own ideas of diversity, pluralism and tolerance. It created a space for me to share my personal experiences around these ideas as well as to listen to the experiences of other workshop participants. Some of the experiences shared were very moving. While the workshop allowed for personal reflection and sharing of feelings and sentiments that flow from our life’s experience with these ideas, the workshop also provided a platform to dialogue about what these concepts mean in terms of academic accountability and institutional reform.”* Rene Rosenbaum, Associate Professor, CARRS

*“Opening Doors created a safe space for some of the most open conversations about race, religion, and sexuality that I’ve ever had. I loved it and left with many things to think about.”* Gwen Pearson, PhD, Assistant Director for Education and Outreach Kellogg Biological Station

## Retreat Date:

### Spring CANR Opening Doors

**May 13 – 15, 2009**  
**Kettunen Center**  
**Tustin, Michigan**

## Retreat Schedule:

*Opening Doors* begins at 10 a.m. on Wednesday and concludes at 3 p.m. on Friday. Participants are expected to attend and stay overnight for the full workshop. Please call Barb McNeice (517) 432-1349 if you have any questions about this requirement.

*“If we are to achieve a richer culture, rich in contrasting values, we must recognize the whole gamut of human potentialities, and so weave a less arbitrary social fabric, one in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place.”* Margaret Mead