

## Facilitators

**Brenda Alston-Mills** served as the Associate Dean and Director for the Office of Diversity and Pluralism, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at Michigan State University until her retirement in 2012. She lectures and has published on the topic of underrepresented groups and women in science. While at North Carolina State University together with others, she examined curriculum transformation as it relates to diversity. She holds an M.S. and Ph.D. in Zoology from Michigan State University and is a Professor of Animal Science.

**Steven Humes** is the Regional Coordinator for the Region IV-North Hemophilia Treatment Center Network based at UNC-Chapel Hill. He has worked in public health for over 20 years, with experience in HIV prevention at the American Red Cross in Greater New York and at Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York. He also oversaw educational and research programs during a ten-year stint at the National Hemophilia Foundation in New York. He holds an M.P.H. with a concentration in Community Health Education.

**Dionardo Pizaña** is the diversity and personnel specialist for Michigan State University Extension (MSUE). He has more than 25 years of experience developing, teaching and facilitating diversity education programs through Michigan State University Extension, Adrian College and Siena Heights University. Dionardo has partnered with others over the past fifteen years to engage co-workers, organizational leaders and community members in discussions related to diversity, multiculturalism, authentic relationships across differences, cultural competence and other social justice topics. He holds a MA in Organizational Leadership.

## Opening Doors Workshop

### CANR Sponsored Workshop Fees:

(May 8th—10th 2013 Workshop)

CANR/MSUE/ABR Employees	Free
Other MSU Employees	\$75.00
Non-MSU Employees	\$125.00

*Please make checks payable to:*

### **Michigan State University**

*Refunds will only be granted for cancellations made within two (2) weeks of the 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.

### **Please Register at:**

<http://events.anr.msu.edu/OpeningDoors2013/>

**Registration open now until April 27, 2013**

### **For More Information Contact:**

Dionardo Pizaña

### Michigan State University Extension

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## Opening Doors: *A Personal and Professional Journey*



### **Sponsored by:**

**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY** | College of Agriculture and Natural Resources

*"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

## What is Opening Doors

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*Opening Doors* is an overnight three (3) 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. The 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 their 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 inequities among people and prevent us all from reaching our potential;
- Collectively develop a framework and common language in order to facilitate change;
- Build alliances and networks.

## Who can participate?

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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 the diversity within our organization. The combination of professionals adds a dimension of diversity that brings much richness to the process.

### Quotes from Past participants:

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*“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 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, Ph.D. , Assistant Director for Education and Outreach Kellogg Biological Station.**

## Retreat Information:

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**May 8-10, 2013  
Pierce Cedar Creek Institute  
Hastings, Michigan**

*Opening Doors* begins at 10a.m. on Wednesday and concludes at 3p.m. on Friday. Participants are expected to attend and stay overnight for the full workshop. Please contact Dionardo Pizaña (517) 432-2666 if you have any questions about this requirement.

For more information on the retreat facility, visit [www.cedarcreekinstitute.org](http://www.cedarcreekinstitute.org)