

Greetings!

I am pleased to announce that we will begin the application process for Cohort VII (2009-2011) of the *Minorities Striving and Pursuing Higher Degrees of Success in Earth System Science (MS PHD'S)® Professional Development Program!*

The *MS PHD'S Professional Development Program* provides professional development experiences that facilitate the advancement of minorities committed to achieving outstanding Earth system science related careers. With your assistance in promoting the retention and advancement of underrepresented minority Earth system science students, we anticipate that this professional development activity will facilitate the introduction and full participation of highly talented young minority scientists in the Earth system science and education community.

*MS PHD'S* programming includes oral and written presentation skill development; mentee/mentor partnerships with minority and non-minority scientists; networking experiences with professionals within academia, industry, federal government and professional organizations; in-depth exposure to leading-edge research and interaction with scientists responsible for these advancements.

Shortly, we will begin the process of selecting the 2009-2011 *MS PHD'S* participant cohort. The successful *MS PHD'S* applicants will engage in a series of science exposure, professional development and virtual community building activities that include participation in two professional society meetings, web-based discussions and workshops, and a capstone event hosted by the National Academies!

I would greatly appreciate your assistance in broadly disseminating this year's program announcement (see attached document). Mentor surveys and participant applications for the *MS PHD'S* Cohort VII are available at [www.msphds.org](http://www.msphds.org).

**Please take a few moments to complete the appropriate survey as well as to encourage all qualified and interested individuals to submit the completed forms. The deadline is September 8, 2009.**

**All applications will be reserved for evaluation pending federal and [private funding](#). Please visit our [website](#) for updates!**

Thank you again for your commitment to the *MS PHD'S* vision and community. I look forward to your continued participation in this worthwhile and exciting initiative.

Sincerely,

Ashanti Johnson Pyrtle, PhD  
Executive Director, Institute for Broadening Participation  
Director, *MS PHD'S*

**The *MS PHD'S* program consists of a three-phased structure:**

- Phase I programming is conducted December 11-18, 2009 in conjunction with the annual Fall American Geophysical Union (AGU) meeting in San Francisco.
- During Phase II programming, *MSPHD'S* students attend discipline-specific professional meetings and conferences aligned with their interests. Phase II meetings are hosted by *MS PHD'S* organizational partners: AGU, American Meteorological Society, American Society of Limnology and Oceanography, National Association of Black Geologists and Geophysicists, Consortium for Ocean Leadership, Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, Ocean Carbon and Biogeochemistry program, The Oceanography Society, and the On the Cutting Edge Professional Development for Geoscience Faculty program.
- Phase III programming is scheduled during the spring of 2011 as a Capstone Event at the National Academies in Washington, D.C. and includes visits to several federal agencies including NSF, NASA, EPA, USGS, and NOAA.

*MS PHD'S* participants extend actual (face-to-face) Phase I, II and III experience through virtual interaction.

The *MS PHD'S Professional Development Program* uses a list-serve, an on-line community forum, and web-cam discourse to sustain mentorship and a sense of community.

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

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

