

## North Carolina OPT-ED Alliance Graduate Student Crosstalk

The Graduate Student Crosstalks can take many forms and styles of interaction. Sometimes the Crosstalk can merely be a get acquainted event, or a presentation by a recognized speaker on topics of interest. Sometimes the Crosstalk can be a panel discussion led by experts within the graduate student core or a discussion on the challenges and/or stresses of graduate school.

Our September 5th Crosstalk began with an icebreaker followed by dinner and a presentation by Stephenie McLean, Director of Education and Research, Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI). The Crosstalk was held on the campus of North Carolina State University. Participating in this Graduate Student Crosstalk were 55 graduate students from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The purpose of this Crosstalk was to connect our graduate students with RENCI and its resources for education and new and existing research projects, including multidisciplinary and multi-campus projects. By applying technological expertise and the world's best computing, networking and data resources to these issues, RENCI strives to create a collaborative 21st-century problem-solving environment that will spur economic growth and lead to the next generation of transformative discoveries.



As a result of this Crosstalk, several graduate students have visited RENCI's engagement centers on the campus of North Carolina State University and are considering ways to enhance and improve their individual research projects.