



# AGEP-NC NEWS

AGEP-NC Alliance:  
A Change Model for Doctoral to Faculty Diversity in STEM

## Welcome New AGEP-NC Fellows!

### UNC Charlotte

We are very excited to welcome the inaugural AGEP-NC Fellows at UNC Charlotte. All 6 of these faculty members have made a commitment to work toward making our graduate programs ones in which our URM students work in an environment where they can thrive. The programs represented by our new Fellows span three colleges and 6 different doctoral programs. We are happy to announce the Fellows:

- ◆ **Jaya Bishwal** (Applied Mathematics)
- ◆ **Cynthia Gibas** (Bioinformatics and Computational Biology)
- ◆ **Tao Han** (Electrical Engr.)
- ◆ **Olya Keen** (Infrastructure and Environmental Systems (INES))
- ◆ **Adam Rietzel** (Biology)
- ◆ **Juan Vivero-Escoto** (Nanoscale Science).

They will kick off their fellowship years with mentor training being held with the Graduate School. We look forward to a wonderful year learning and working together to meet the goals of the AGEP-NC Alliance.

### NC A&T

The first NC A&T State University cohort of AGEP-NC Fellows will begin meeting as a group during September 2019. The diverse group of six faculty members spans three A&T colleges (Science & Technology, Engineering, and Nanoengineering & Nanoscience). The Fellows and their departments are:

- ◆ **Scott Harrison** (Biology)
- ◆ **Julius Harp** (Chemistry)
- ◆ **Seongtae "Ty" Kim** (Mathematics)
- ◆ **Ademe Mekonnen** (Physics)
- ◆ **Sun Yi** (Mechanical Engr.)
- ◆ **Lifeng Zhang** (Nanoengineering).

This group will contribute a variety of backgrounds and experiences to lively brainstorming sessions on how STEM departments with PhD Programs at A&T can enhance the success of underrepresented students in graduating and entering academic careers. Introductory meetings are ongoing this summer between the new Fellows, their Chairs, and AGEP-NC A&T PIs toward developing clear mutual expectations and understanding of the alliance goals and objectives.

### NC State Updates

Meetings this summer with NCSU's AGEP-NC department heads and directors of graduate programs have generated great suggestions and requests. As requested, here are two resources on mentoring.

- **Mentoring Guide:** <https://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/more-mentoring-guide-for-mentors.pdf>
- **From Deficits to Possibilities: Mentoring Lessons from Plants on Cultivating Individual Growth:** <https://publications.publicphilosophy-journal.org/record/?issue=6-18-22&kid=6-15-173284>

### Joint Meeting of Fellows

**For the 2019-2020 year, we are planning two common meetings of Fellows from all three institutions, one in September to kick off the year, share goals and experiences and learn about results from Lisa Merriweather's research on mentoring. At the second joint meeting, planned for February 2020, AGEP-NC process evaluator Rebecca Brent will share results from surveys of the climate for STEM faculty and students within our Alliance.**

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