



LEAVING OUR LEGACY

MSAN Student Conference
November 13-16, 2024

Hosted by East Lansing Public Schools





MSAN Student Conference Host Districts

2000	Cleveland Heights-University Heights and Shaker Heights City School Districts, OH
2001	Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor, MI
2002	Evanston Township High School District 202 and Oak Park & River Forest High School District 200, IL
2003	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Chapel Hill, NC
2004	Princeton Public Schools, Princeton, NJ
2005	Cambridge Public Schools, Cambridge, MA
2006	Green Bay Area Public Schools, Green Bay, WI
2007	Arlington Public Schools, Arlington, VA
2008	Madison Metropolitan School District, Madison, WI
2009	Evanston Township High School District 202 and Oak Park & River Forest High School District 200, IL
2010	Bedford Central School District, Mount Kisco, NY
2011	Columbia Public Schools, Columbia, MO
2012	Paradise Valley Unified School District, Phoenix, AZ
2013	Amherst-Pelham Regional Schools, Amherst, MA
2014	Farmington Public Schools, Farmington, MI
2015	Verona Area School District, Verona, WI
2016	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, Chapel Hill, NC
2017	Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District, University Heights, OH
2018	The Public Schools of Brookline, Brookline, MA
2019	Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District, Middleton, WI
2020	Virtual
2021	Virtual
2022	Virtual
2023	Sun Prairie Area School District, Sun Prairie, WI
2024	East Lansing Public Schools, Lansing, MI

The 2024 MSAN Student Conference Planning Team wishes to thank...

- Michigan State University: Dr. Terah Chambers, Dr. Delia Fernandez-Jones, Dr. Terry Flenbaugh, Dr. Genyne Royal, Dr. John Hannah, Dr. Dave Weatherspoon, and Kim Steed-Page.
- Our esteemed speakers and performers: Mari Copeny, Myles Johnson, Nyshell Lawrence, Gary Caldwell, Maria Serrato, and Chris from Jump Start DJs.
- East Lansing Public Schools: Dori Leyko, Glenn Mitcham, Julie Berridge, Heather Mueller, Heather Findley, Kathryn Sanchez, Cody Harrell, and the Portrait Student Photographers.



Hello MSAN Scholars,

Welcome to the 2024 MSAN Student Conference. East Lansing High School is excited to host you here at Michigan State University.

Much of our work promoting social justice, equity, belonging, and inclusion doesn't always lead to immediate results. Our work is like carrying a torch in a relay race. We may not always see the finish line ourselves, but the most important aspect is that we keep the flame burning for future generations of students to carry forward. This is where our inspiration for this year's conference theme, "Leaving Our Legacy," comes from.

As MSAN scholars, our mission is to create better educational environments for students from all cultural backgrounds, but sometimes our efforts encounter resistance: ignorance, prejudice, bias, apathy, and outright opposition to these goals. Our work is difficult. But in order to leave a lasting legacy, we must keep passing the torch to others while continuing to collaborate with other scholars, communities, and schools.

Ultimately, each of us wants to leave behind a legacy of activism and justice. We look forward to running the race beside you, and we will be cheering you on the whole time.

We would like to leave you with the wise words of César Chávez, an American leader and civil rights activist: "We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community."

Thank you,

The East Lansing High School MSAN Student Conference Planning Team



A NOTE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EAST LANSING PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Dear MSAN Students and Chaperones,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to East Lansing, Michigan, for the 2024 Multicultural Student Achievement Network (MSAN) Annual Student Conference! This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of MSAN, and we are honored to host this milestone event on the beautiful campus of Michigan State University from November 13 to 16, 2024.

The theme of this year's conference, "Leaving Your Legacy," speaks to the powerful impact that each of you has the potential to make. Whether through your leadership, advocacy, or actions, this conference will equip you with the tools and inspiration to begin shaping the legacy you wish to leave behind. Over the next few days, you'll have the chance to hear from dynamic guest speakers, engage in thought-provoking panel discussions, collaborate during action planning sessions, and explore the MSU campus. Of course, there will also be plenty of time to network, connect with peers, and enjoy some fun along the way!

As we reflect on 25 years of MSAN's mission to promote equity and achievement for all students, I encourage you to think about how you will carry this work forward. Your voices, your ideas, and your actions matter—and together, we can create lasting change in our schools and communities.

On behalf of East Lansing Public Schools, welcome to this exciting and transformative event. We are thrilled to have you here and look forward to seeing how you will embrace the challenge of "Leaving Your Legacy."

Sincerely,
Dori Leyko
Superintendent
East Lansing Public Schools



WELCOME FROM MSAN'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear MSAN Students and Chaperones,

We are so excited that you are all here in the wonderful city of East Lansing, Michigan for our 2024 MSAN Student Conference! We look forward to an impactful experience over the next three days as we connect, learn, grow, and experience the great university here in East Lansing—Michigan State University. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the wonderful planning team and East Lansing Public Schools for being our gracious host this year! This broad team of students, educators, university staff, and many others have worked diligently over the past months to ensure all of you have a great experience during your time here.

This year's conference theme is **"Leaving our Legacy"**-- which highlights the importance of action and leadership now so that what we do can have positive lasting impacts for future generations.

As always, the conference highlight is Action Plan development! We can't wait to see the great ideas you all develop to help improve your schools and communities. Chaperones, thank you for your commitment to supporting our students and this important work!

Of course, we don't want to forget that although this conference is to learn, work, and grow, it is also a time to connect with new friends, share ideas and have fun! Enjoy your time at this year's conference.

Sincerely,
Latoya Holiday
MSAN Executive Director



WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF MSAN

Greetings MSAN Scholars,

Welcome to the “Leaving Our Legacy” Student Conference! We are thrilled to have you join us for this important and empowering event. As students, you play a vital role in shaping the future of our schools, and this conference is all about finding and amplifying your voice to advocate for equity and access to educational opportunities for all.

The theme of “Leaving Our Legacy” is more than just a reflection on the work you have done so far; it’s about ensuring that the foundation you lay today will continue to inspire and empower others. You have the power to create change, to speak up for what’s right, and to help younger students recognize the importance of their voices, too. Our mission here is to help you build the tools, confidence, and network you need to be strong advocates in your schools—so that all students, no matter their background or circumstances, have the chance to thrive.

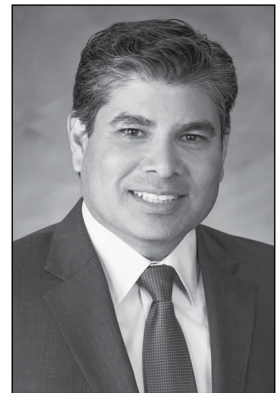
During this conference, you will engage in meaningful discussions, participate in workshops, and connect with other student leaders who, like you, are passionate about creating a school system that is fair and inclusive. You’ll explore strategies to use your voice to influence positive change and ensure that equity becomes a core value in every school.

Most importantly, this conference is not just about the legacy you are leaving, but also about recognizing the potential of the students who come after you. They will have their own ideas and solutions, and it is our collective responsibility to support them as they continue the work you’ve started. Together, we can create schools where every student is heard, valued, and given the opportunity to succeed.

Thank you for being a part of this movement. Your voice matters, and your legacy will make a lasting impact on your school and beyond. We are excited to see the change you create and the future you help shape.

With enthusiasm and hope,

Dr. Mario Ventura
MSAN Board President
Superintendent
Isaac Elementary School District





2024 MSAN Student Conference

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

3:30-5:30 p.m.	Registration	Outside Big Ten A Ballroom
5:30-7:00 p.m.	Welcome and Dinner	Big Ten A Ballroom
	Land Acknowledgement: Sarah Lettau & Mikayla Thompson of the North American Indigenous Student Organization (NAISO)	
7:00-8:00 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Mari Copeny, "Little Miss Flint"	Big Ten A Ballroom
8:00-9:00 p.m.	District Team Group Activities	Big Ten A Ballroom
8:00-9:00 p.m.	Chaperone Orientation	Room 103 AB
9:00-10:00 p.m.	Roll Call of MSAN Districts	Big Ten A Ballroom
10:00-10:30 p.m.	Late Night Snacks	Big Ten A Ballroom
10:30 p.m.	Return to hotel rooms (lights out at 11:00 p.m.)	

Thursday, November 14, 2024

7:30-8:30 a.m.	Breakfast	Big Ten A Ballroom
8:30-9:00 a.m.	Welcome from MI State University Leaders	Big Ten A Ballroom
9:00-9:30 a.m.	Walk to Tour Experiences	
9:30-12:00 p.m.	University & College Tour Experiences	MI State University Campus
12:00-12:15 p.m.	Walk to Brody Square	
12:15-1:15 p.m.	Lunch	Brody Square Dining Hall
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Walk to Kellogg Center	
1:30-2:30 p.m.	Michigan State University Student Panel & Resource Fair	Big Ten A Ballroom
2:30-4:30 p.m.	Explore East Lansing & Scavenger Hunt	
4:30-4:45 p.m.	Refresh Time (on your own at Kellogg)	
4:45-5:45 p.m.	Action Planning Kickoff	Big Ten A Ballroom
5:45-6:30 p.m.	Dinner	Big Ten A Ballroom
6:30-8:00 p.m.	Community Impact through Entrepreneurship Panel	Big Ten A Ballroom
8:00-10:00 p.m.	MSAN's Got Talent	Big Ten A Ballroom
10:00-10:30 p.m.	Late Night Snacks	Big Ten A Ballroom
10:30 p.m.	Return to hotel rooms (lights out at 11:00 p.m.)	

Friday, November 15, 2024

8:00-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast	Big Ten A Ballroom
9:00-10:00 a.m.	Keynote Speaker: Myles Johnson	Big Ten A Ballroom
10:00-10:15 a.m.	Break	
10:15-12:00 p.m.	Student Action Planning	See breakout rooms on page 10
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch	Big Ten A Ballroom
1:00-4:00 p.m.	Student Action Planning	See breakout rooms on page 10
4:00-6:00 p.m.	Action Plan Presentations	Big Ten A Ballroom
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7:00-7:30 p.m.	Break and Refresh	Big Ten A Ballroom
7:30-10:00 p.m.	Dance	Big Ten A Ballroom
7:30-10:00 p.m.	Choice Room (games, bracelet making, etc.)	Red Cedar AB
9:45-10:15 p.m.	Late Night Sundae Bar	Big Ten A Ballroom
10:30 p.m.	Return to hotel rooms (lights out at 11:00 p.m.)	

Saturday, November 16, 2024

8:00-9:30 a.m.	Breakfast, Evaluations, and Closing Reflections	
9:30 a.m.	Farewells and Departures	

Conference Expectations & Responsibilities

Congratulations on being selected as a delegate from your school district for the 2024 MSAN Student Conference! You are joining a community of **MSAN Scholars** from around the country who are working for educational equity in their school districts.

Each year, students just like you help design the MSAN Student Conference. Support their leadership by reviewing the guidelines for behavior, dress code guidelines, and other conference details, below.

Planning & Preparation

- The planning committee selected several readings and materials for your team to review and reflect on prior to arrival to prepare for conference activities. These required materials can be downloaded from <http://msan.wceruw.org/conferences/studentConf.html>.
- The pre-conference handbook provided prior to the conference includes additional details regarding conference expectations and guidelines. It can be downloaded from the conference website at <http://msan.wceruw.org/conferences/studentConf.html>.

Dress Code Guidelines for Students and Chaperones

The suggested dress code guidelines for the conference range from Casual to Business Casual:

BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE FOR CONFERENCE EVENTS OUTSIDE OF THE HOTEL
<p>Casual dress shirts, such as button-downs or polos. No t-shirts with advertisements or slogans that wouldn't be okay in school.</p> <p>Skirts, dresses, capris, dress shorts, business casual pants (for example, khakis). Jeans are not recommended.</p> <p>Wear comfortable shoes for the campus visit – extensive walking is required. Flip-flops are NOT recommended.</p>
CASUAL ATTIRE FOR CONFERENCE EVENTS INSIDE THE HOTEL
<p>All participants should wear clothing that will allow for comfortable movement.</p> <p>Shorts or skirts should be mid-thigh or longer. Sheer clothing requires appropriate under layers. Pants or jeans should fit comfortably; belt loose-fitting pants/shorts. Gym shoes are okay.</p>

Please remember to check the weather forecast to ensure you are dressed appropriately. Autumn weather in Michigan can be unpredictable and can change very quickly. Rain is a distinct possibility. We will also be touring a college campus, which will require extensive walking. **Make sure to wear appropriate footwear** (flip-flops are not recommended). If you are in need of accommodations for the campus visit, please contact the MSAN Project Manager, Connie Showalter, at connie.showalter@wisc.edu or call (608) 263-1565.

MSAN Student Conference Delegate Agreements

- MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to use technology appropriately during the conference. DO post appropriate conference updates on social media, and tag @MSANachieve. DON'T use your phone or device in a way that takes away from your experience, the experience of other delegates, or the experiences of our guest speakers.
- MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to a strict no alcohol, tobacco, or other drug policy during the entire conference.
- MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to socialize only in public spaces. Conference delegates are NEVER allowed to socialize in each other's rooms. Outside guests are not permitted at the conference. Family members who attend the conference need to register with MSAN as official conference volunteers.
- MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to cooperate with all reasonable requests made by adults affiliated with the conference.
- MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to follow all curfew rules.
- MSAN Student Conference delegates agree to keep shared spaces (e.g. hallways, stairwells) quiet, and **remain with the group at all times.**

Did you know the MSAN website has resources for students? Visit **msan.wceruw.org** for info on over 50 scholarship opportunities.

MSAN Student Conference Delegates Are...

LEADERS

- Express and discuss your ideas, views and opinions.
- Think about how you will use the information you learn when you get home.
- Create a plan of action to implement in your school district.

DEPENDABLE

- Attend all events and activities.
- Be on time.
- Complete tasks and assignments.
- Stay with chaperones.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THEIR SCHOOLS, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

- Represent with pride!
- Wear MSAN name tag at all times.
- Observe rules and curfews.

COMMUNITY BUILDERS

- Cooperate with others.
- Give, accept, and use feedback effectively.
- Ask questions, network, and share information with peers, adults, and presenters.
- Stay involved and engaged.

FULL PARTICIPANTS

- Be positive – it's contagious!
- Be Flexible.
- Ask Questions. Listen. Reflect.

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Keynote Speaker: Mari Copeny, "Little Miss Flint"

7:00-8:00 p.m., Big Ten A Ballroom

Mari Copeny is a 17-year-old from Flint, Michigan known globally as Little Miss Flint. She first entered the public spotlight when her letter to President Obama about the water crisis prompted him to visit the city and survey the water crisis for himself. That visit ultimately led to him approving 100 million dollars in relief for the city of Flint. Mari has used her platform to not only bring awareness to the water crisis in her community but to also give back. She sits on the Flint Youth Justice League and the MDE Anti-Racism Student Advisory Council. Mari has raised over \$700,000 for her Flint Kids projects including giving out over 19,000 backpacks stuffed with school supplies, a yearly Christmas event with thousands of toys, hundreds of Easter baskets, movie screenings, and lots of other events centered on the children in her community.

Mari has a book project in which she gets books by authors of color into the hands of local children. Her dear Flint Kids letter project has received thousands of letters of support to the children of Flint from people all around the world. She also raised over \$250k and has given away over a million bottles of water. She takes the most pride in pivoting away from single-use bottled water to partnering with a company, Hydroviv, to produce her very own water filter. It is shipped all over the country to those that are facing toxic drinking water. To date she has raised over \$700k to produce and distribute her filters.



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Community Impact through Entrepreneurship Panel

6:30–8:00 p.m., Big Ten A Ballroom

Nyshell Lawrence

Nyshell Lawrence is a celebrated poet + creative entrepreneur, living in Michigan with her husband and children. Her life and work is a celebration of Black womanhood. In 2021, she created Socialight Society, an independent bookshop that specifically caters to Black women who often lack representation in traditional bookstores. Socialight Society curates classic, contemporary, and children's titles written for and by Black women. As a Lansing native, Nyshell is invested in serving the local community, and passionate about creating space for Black authors, artists, and creatives.



Gary Caldwell

Gary Caldwell is the owner of Gary Caldwell Productions. As a graduate from East Lansing High School, Gary feels it is a privilege for him to share his journey with all of us at the 2024 MSAN Student Conference. Right out of high school, he decided to start a commercial video production company to strengthen the branding of local businesses and expand his network in Mid-Michigan. Gary's goal is to teach, create, and inspire the next generation of creatives while building a community that revolves around digital media.

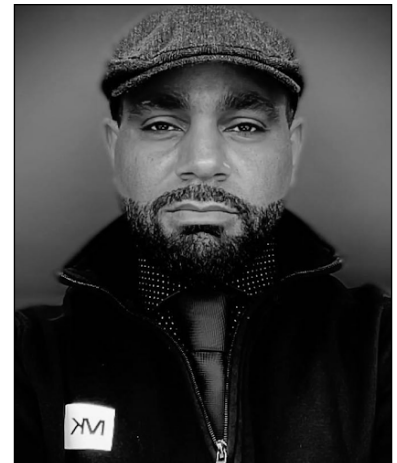


Maria Serrato

Maria Serrato grew up in Saginaw, Michigan, and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interdisciplinary Humanities from the College of Arts and Letters at Michigan State University. Most recently, she taught 2nd grade in the Lansing School District. Previously, she worked in the College of Education at Michigan State University as a Program Coordinator for the Master of Arts in Educational Technology program. She is passionate about working with youth in the community from elementary through college. She strives to advance students in their education and guide them to all available resources. In 2017, Maria founded a non-profit organization called Capital Area Latina Youth (CALY). The mission of CALY is to create a network of Lansing-area Latina youth to foster empowerment, education, cultural advancement, and leadership among Latina youth in middle school and high school. Working with youth and young adults from diverse backgrounds is Maria's life's work.

**Michael Lynn Jr.**

Michael Lynn Jr. is a passionate community advocate and voice for change in the city he was born and raised in Lansing, MI. Michael currently serves as CEO of the Lansing Empowerment Network (LEN); a community based organization addressing root causes of violence, poverty, and inequities through a collaborative, data-driven, public health approach. He is also a facilitator of Lansing 360, an initiative of LEN focused on reducing violence and improving public safety through strengthening relationships, coordinating resources, and the exchange of information through collaboration and communication. Michael has been instrumental in pushing for community violence intervention funding, improving community and police relations, implementing virtual options for resident input at official meetings, amplifying community voices, and centering Black lives. He is committed to building a safer Lansing by strengthening community relationships and supporting solutions that reflect the voices of the community.

**Erica Lynn**

Erica Lynn is a dedicated advocate working to creating positive change in her community. A proud product of Lansing, MI, Erica enjoyed a 17-year career with the American Cancer Society in leadership roles involving project and people management, fundraising, and consulting. She is currently a Senior Project Coordinator at the MPH's Center for Racial and Social Justice, supporting projects that center public health and social justice in the child protection, juvenile justice and criminal justice systems. Erica is the Vice President of the Lansing Empowerment Network (LEN) Board, a community-based organization addressing violence, poverty, and inequities through a collaborative, data-driven public health approach. She also supports Lansing 360, an initiative of LEN aimed at reducing violence and improving public safety by strengthening relationships, coordinating resources, and fostering collaboration. Erica is committed to building community capacity, addressing gun violence through public health strategies, promoting health equity, anti-oppression work, and tackling root causes of community issues.



Friday, November 15, 2024

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10:15–12:00 p.m.	Student Action Planning
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch
1:00–4:00 p.m.	Student Action Planning
4:00–6:00 p.m.	Action Plan Presentations
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7:30–10:00 p.m.	Choice Room (games, bracelet making, etc.)
9:45–10:15 p.m.	Late Night Sundae Bar
10:30 p.m.	Return to hotel rooms (lights out at 11:00 p.m.)

Big Ten A Ballroom
Big Ten A Ballroom

See breakout rooms below
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See breakout rooms below
Big Ten A Ballroom
Big Ten A Ballroom
Big Ten A Ballroom
Big Ten A Ballroom
Red Cedar AB
Big Ten A Ballroom

Keynote Speaker: Myles Johnson Lansing District 5 Commissioner

9:00–10:00 a.m. Big Ten A Ballroom

Myles Johnson, is a native to the Capitol city. Since he was in high school Myles has had a passion for politics and wanted to make an impact on his community. So after graduating from Bowling Green State University he decided to come home. That decision lead him to run for Ingham County Commissioner of South Lansing. Myles ran for office with barely any resources and successfully won his race for Ingham County Commissioner. He accomplished this mainly by gaining trust from the community, the same community that he was raised in. He stands for youth empowerment, public safety, and economic development in a mission to revitalize South Lansing. At 26, Myles has lead initiatives to remove medical debt for County residents, and worked to fund the Southside Community Coalition to expand their elder services.



Student Action Planning Breakout Rooms

10:15–12:00 p.m., 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Big Ten A
Big Ten B
Big Ten C
Lincoln



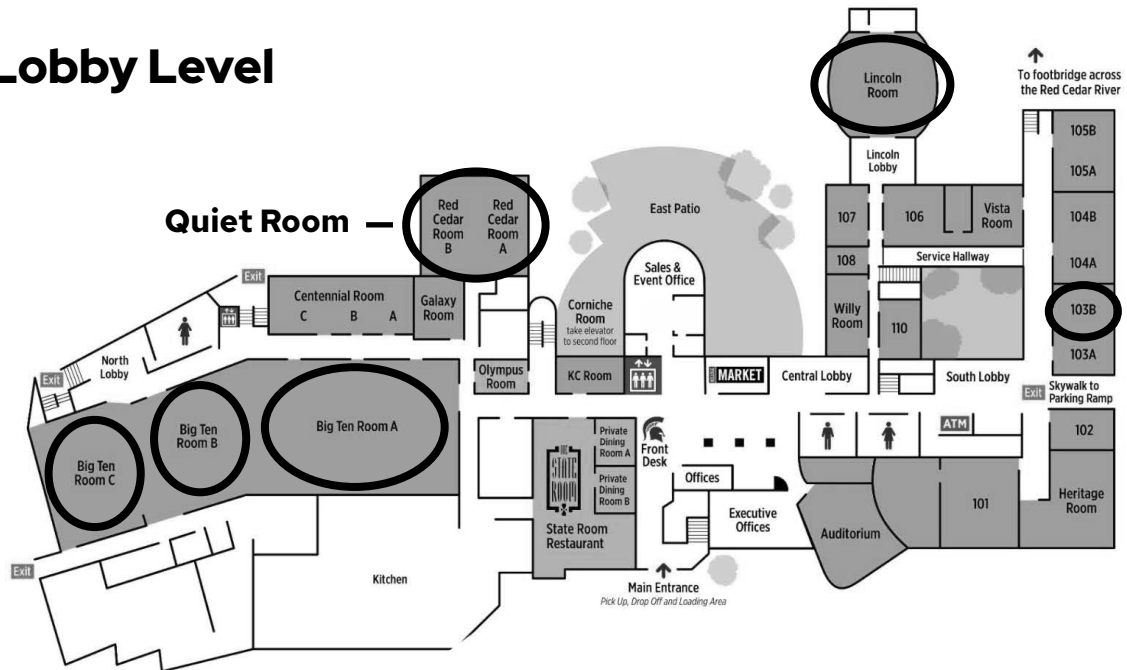
Saturday, November 16, 2024

8:00–9:30 a.m.	Breakfast, Evaluations, and Closing Reflections
9:30 a.m.	Farewells and Departure

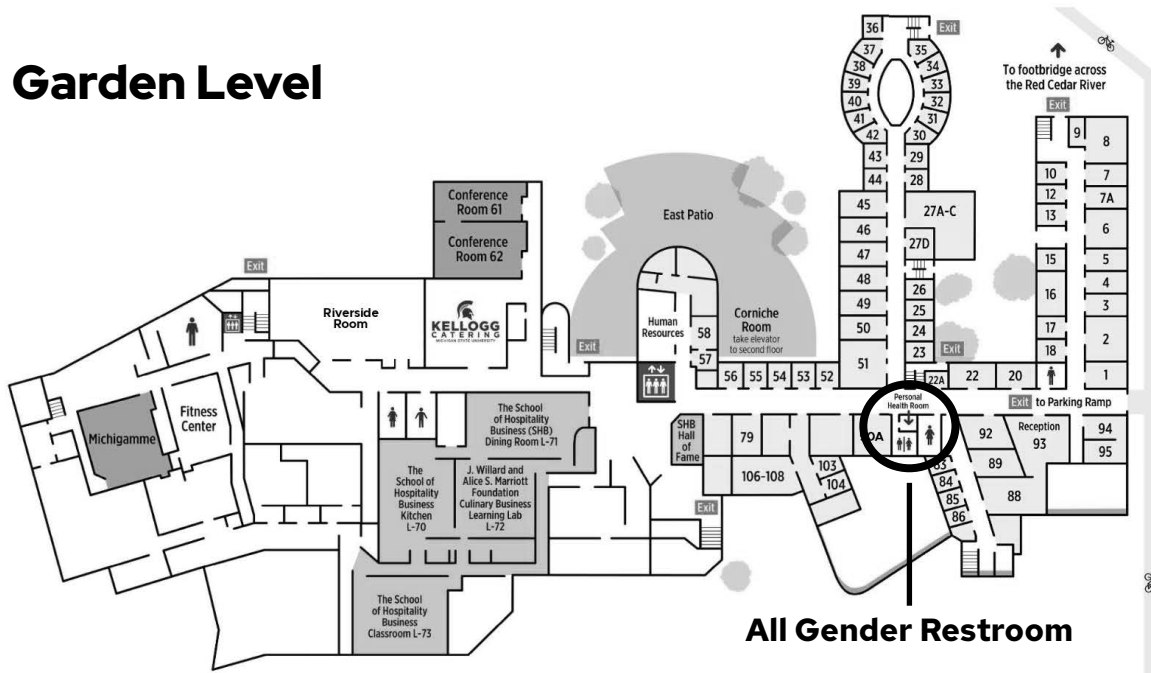
NOTES

HOTEL MAP

Lobby Level



Garden Level

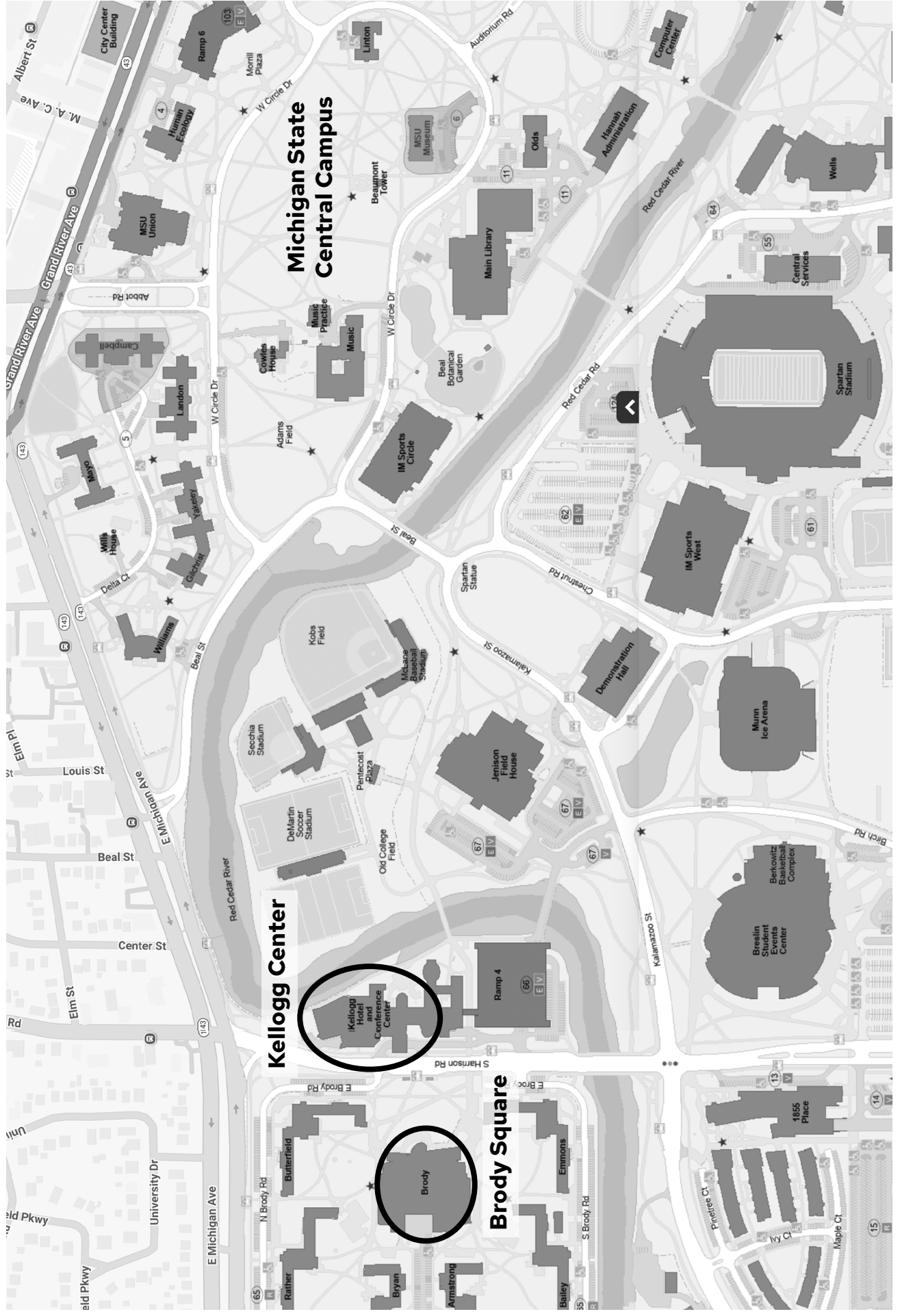


**LEAVING OUR
LEGACY**



**Be sure to complete
your conference
evaluation before
departing. Thanks!**

MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE IMPORTANT LOCATIONS





The **MSAN Network** is a national coalition of multiracial school districts learning, growing, and working together toward the goal of improving access, opportunity, and achievement for students of color. MSAN districts have student populations between 3,000 and 33,000 and are most often located in small to mid-size cities. Additionally, the districts share a history of high academic achievement and connections to major research universities.

MSAN's Mission is to build the capacity for advocacy skills of students and educational practitioners through communities of practice that positively impact the educational experiences of all students with an emphasis on Black, Indigenous, and Students of Color.

MSAN's Vision is to empower students and educational practitioners to change the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Antiracism narrative in public education across the Nation.

MSAN's Core Values (5 E's) are to:

EMPOWER Students' Voices

Promote EDUCATIONAL Research and Best Practices

ENGAGE in Professional Learning

EMBRACE Collaboration with Students and Practitioners

Attain EFFICACY in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, and Antiracism

Special Thanks To

The MSAN Planning Committee

Klaudia Burton	Director of Equity and Social Justice
Diana Sanchez	Spanish Teacher, MSAN Advisor
Steven Neal	English Teacher, MSAN Advisor
Angeleah Donley	English Teacher, MSAN Advisor
Amear Ahmed	East Lansing High School
Charli Collison	East Lansing High School
Coura Dembele	East Lansing High School
Rania Dijagah	East Lansing High School
Edna Hughes	East Lansing High School
Sierra Lewis Farver	East Lansing High School
Hassan Miana	East Lansing High School
Corissa Pittman	East Lansing High School
Marisa Serrato-Gamez	East Lansing High School
Chloe Vickers	East Lansing High School
Anthony Wickersham	East Lansing High School
Raven Wright	East Lansing High School

Wisconsin Center for Education Research

Latoya Holiday	MSAN Executive Director
Connie Showalter	MSAN Project Manager
Alex André	Conference Program
Carol Lien	Website Development

MSAN Districts

Alexandria City Public Schools
Alexandria, VA

Amherst – Pelham Regional Schools
Amherst, MA

Ann Arbor Public Schools, Ann Arbor, MI
Arlington Public Schools, Arlington, VA

Canton City School District, Canton, OH
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools
Chapel Hill, NC

Cleveland Heights-University Heights
City School District,
University Heights, OH

East Lansing Public Schools
East Lansing, MI

Evanston Township High School District
202, Evanston, IL

Farmington Public Schools
Farmington, MI

Harrisonburg City Public Schools
Harrisonburg, VA

Homewood-Flossmoor Community HSD
233, Flossmoor, IL

Isaac Elementary School District #5
Phoenix, AZ

Madison Metropolitan School District
Madison, WI

Middleton-Cross Plains Area School
District, Middleton, WI

Niles Township High School District 219
Skokie, IL

Oak Park Elementary School District 97
Oak Park, IL

Oak Park and River Forest High School
District 200, Oak Park, IL

Princeton Public Schools, Princeton, NJ

Shaker Heights City School District
Shaker Heights, OH

Sun Prairie Area School District
Sun Prairie, WI

Waukegan Community School District
Waukegan, WI

To learn more about MSAN please
visit us online at:

msan.wceruw.org