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- Paul S.: We really look very carefully at this kind of program that we participate in, in a big way, to help us identify the young people who will move in and become the scientists of tomorrow and help move NOAA forward.
- Monique: The conference has been very informative, learning about what NOAA needs from the science community and how they want us to be trained as students to take over the leadership when they step down. What initiative they need us to take as far as the social community telling the community about the weather and how they should be prepared when disaster is about to strike.
- Michael: This conference has been particularly beneficial for students because we had a number of agencies, private partners, that have been here and they have opened up internship opportunities and have also added a number of faculty and scientists from other agencies that are here serving as mentors.
- Paul: This conference is so important to NOAA because one of the greatest challenges we face is replenishing our scientific person power, scientific manpower, and the best way to do that is by reaching across the country and finding the best and brightest young people and getting them interested in STEM disciplines in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Particularly those areas of STEM disciplines that affect NOAA's missions of science stewardship and services.
- Michelle: We have never had more of the need for people in the STEM education and I think when you give young people a purpose they will respond.
- Mayra: This is my project here. I am researching the interhemispheric tropospheric observations of ozone over the Atlantic Ocean, as seen on the Aerosol and Ocean Science Expedition. The Aerosol and Ocean Science Expedition, or AEROSE are a series of transatlantic intensive field campaigns that have been conducted over the past eight years.
- Ken: The focus of the forum is four fold. To provide a venue for exchanging results of collaborative research within the academic community and discussing new engagement opportunities, expand academic training in science technology, engineering, and mathematics, disciplines through partnership activities, to feature dynamic speakers, unique presentations, and interactions within their established professions, and finally to highlight professional careers in the public, private, and academic sectors.
- Shadya: The conference has been really good, I think, so far. I like the student involvement, having us all come together last night for the competition to

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say what we all do at our respective centers, that was very interesting and so I really enjoyed that part.

Reza: It is important because it brings a very diversified student body that exists in the country together to talk about the science and technology, and engineering mathematics in NOAA related sciences. It is very well focused and it has a lot of discipline in those sciences that students can talk to each other about it.

Paulinus: I found myself being exposed to research that is conducted at the center institutions and they have also been able to network and meet with scientists at various institutions.

April: It was a great opportunity to kind of merge those experiences and to have people make those linkages.

Paul: Particularly, we are interested in trying to increase the representation of underrepresented groups within our population of scientists and technologists, so that is what is exciting to me. If you will look around this room you see a wide diversity of people, mostly young people, not people with gray hair like me, but mostly young people, and those are the ones that we want to talk to. Those are the ones we want to get interested in a career in STEM disciplines, not just starting out a few science courses and get interested in a career and then come look at NOAA.

David: People have come from all over the country to talk about not only their research, but how they are helping to train students that could then become employees of NOAA or other federal or state agencies, and so it is very important that we invest in this future. I am proud to be a part of that.

Dennis: I think this program is very important in terms of recruiting students because it is focused on NOAA related sciences. Students are trained on NOAA related sciences, atmospheric science, marine science, oceanography, and coastal assessment sciences.

Shadya: Today, I am presenting preliminary case studies on the relationships between demographics and fatalities. There is some sort of connection between the two during tornados and severe weather events.

David: Cooperative Centers, I just want to mention those. The four are based at Howard University, which is associated with the National Weather Service. The other is FAMU, which is associated with National Ocean Service. Then we have the City University of New York associated with our satellite service, the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore and that is

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associated with our Fishery Service. These four programs have been in place for over ten years and I have been associated with them for that entire time. It is a wonderful opportunity to increase the diversity within NOAA.

- Zakiya: It is a good opportunity to network with not only NOAA government officials, but also with other professors from other colleges and other industries, and it is a good way to network and get your foot in the door and have someone else to talk to professionally.
- Eleonor: I am here to present my poster and it is going to be on my dissertation topic and it is important to let people know that there is people out there not only interested in the environment, but also in the human interaction with the environment.
- DaNa: It really does give you an opportunity to mentor because sometimes as a student I was lost really. It takes a person that has already taken those steps before to just provide that information and be that person that I could kind of lean on when I have questions.
- Michelle: The conference has been really amazing, as far as being a grad student and seeing other minorities pursue masters and PhDs and especially in hard sciences and STEM research where there is a lack of minorities. It has been really awesome to see people present and the presentations have been really impressive.
- Alan: You are able to bring some of the top scientists in the world right her to Florida A&M, a place that is known for our research capabilities. The relationship and the partnership with NOAA is phenomenal because now our students get the opportunity to outreach and connect with some of these scientists.
- Russell: Coming from NOAA, I get to meet a lot of the prospective employees down the road and see that energy and help to capitalize on that enthusiasm for the future. These are extremely important conferences for people to connect to their peers and to groups that they normally would not talk to.
- Zakiya: So far I have attended different sessions, preliminary sessions, and technical sessions, but I have also had a chance to talk with invited speakers, one specifically from the Gulf of Mexico Alliance, which I have been on their website constantly looking at what they do.
- Natasha: I came here today as a representative of the National Ocean Service from NOAA in Charleston, South Carolina. So far the conference has been

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very beneficial. I have had a chance to see a wide range of talks from both students and professionals. I have had the opportunity to talk to some students and give them some pointers on mentoring and actually made some connects for potential collaboration.

Vernon: I think it is good for them to have the experience to be at a technical conference where they were sort of the leaders of the technical sessions. They dominated the presentations for the posters, dominated the presentations for the oral sessions, and really were the major contributors to the science and I think that is important for developing scientific professionals to have that experience.

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**Duration: 9 minutes and 22 seconds.**