1-1-2001

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS)

Rodney Jones
Iowa State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester
Part of the Forest Sciences Commons

Recommended Citation
Available at: https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/amesforester/vol88/iss1/8

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Iowa State University Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ames Forester by an authorized editor of Iowa State University Digital Repository. For more information, please contact digirep@iastate.edu.
In the early 1980s, a concerned minority student recognized the need of a support network for minority students in agricultural programs at Michigan State University. With help from a college advisor, this student formed The Minority Agriculture and Natural Resources Association (MANRA). After this news reached Penn State University, an advisor there formed a group called Minorities in Agriculture (MIA). The objectives of these groups were to recruit minority students and provide a support system for them within the agriculture discipline.

In 1986, MANRA and MIA sponsored “The First Annual Conference of Minority Students in Agriculture and Natural Resources” at MSU. The second annual conference was held at Penn State University. The third annual conference was held at University of Maryland Eastern Shore and this is when the name MANRRS came about which combined the two groups.

MANRRS is a non-profit organization registered in the state of Michigan. MANRRS is a national organization that welcomes membership of people of all racial and ethnic groups. The central ideas of MANRRS can be summed up in one statement from the Constitution and it is as follows:

We the members of this society pledge to support endeavors that will always foster and promote the agricultural sciences and related fields in a positive manner among ethnic minorities. We also pledge to initiate and participate in activities and programs that will ensure that ethnic minorities will also be involved in and associated with the agricultural sciences and related fields... We pledge to work for the inclusion, achievement and advancement of all people in the agricultural sciences.

The Iowa State Chapter of MANRRS consists of about 30 members and 3 faculty advisors. From the Forestry Department, Thomas “Rashad” Easley and Rodney “Senoj” Jones are active members of MANRRS. Dr. Lita Rule is one of the faculty advisors of MANRRS. The national MANRRS conference was held in Washington DC this year and Dr. Rule, Thomas and Rodney attended. Thomas competed in the graduate oral research and won third place. Congratulations Thomas!!!
MANRRS is a community of students within the College of Agriculture that gives a voice to traditionally underrepresented people. Remember: “a people without a voice have nothing to say.”

MANRRS group stops for a group shot

Thomas Easley, Forestry Graduate Student in D.C.