



Michigan Futures in the Global Economy Public Policy Seminar



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GRANT GIVES STUDENT VOICE TO BIOFUEL ECONOMY Upcoming Conference Targets Students' Inventions, Ideas, and Research in Michigan's Bioeconomy

In her State of the State address, Governor Jennifer Granholm told the people of the State of Michigan that alternative energy has "blockbuster potential" for the economy. Drawing on its wealth of resources, Governor Granholm pointed out Michigan's water-ways as conduits of transportation; empty factories as ample infrastructure for starting a new industry; talented manufacturing-workforce as future employees; and natural resources of wood and farmland as the source for biofuel production. But one more should be added to the Governor's list: smart university students with ideas, inventions, and research relating to the bioeconomy.

The Michigan Futures Seminar of the James Madison College at Michigan State University has received a generous grant from the Prima Civitas Foundation (contact CEO David Hollister, 517/999-3382) to hold an Inventors Day focused solely around the innovative ideas, research, and inventions of Michigan's undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate students. The conference will be held Friday, April 11, 2008 at the Henry Center for Executive Development in Lansing, Michigan, from 8:30a – 2:00p. Leading business executives and academic and government experts will be in attendance to answer questions, provide feedback to student designs, and talk about how their work can further the bioeconomy in Michigan.

Proposals describing student research, invention, or idea are being solicited from all disciplines at universities across the state; professors and advisors are urged to recommend their students to apply. The top five proposals will be awarded \$1,000 and the opportunity to make a twenty minute presentation to industry and government experts at the conference. All other submissions will be presented via poster-board display. Travel grants are available based on need. A call for proposals can be found online, www.mciep.org/InventorsDay.

The Michigan Futures in the Global Economy Public Policy Seminar, started in 2005, is supported by the James Madison College and the Michigan Center for Innovation and Economic Prosperity. The Seminar produces a yearly report highlighting potential areas of growth in Michigan's economy.

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For more information on the Inventors Day, please contact the Michigan Center for Innovation and Economic Prosperity, call 517/884-1267, or call Dr. Bryan Ritchie at 517/353-8614 or Dr. Ross Emmett at 517/432-6149. For information on how your firm or government agency can participate in the conference, contact Caitlyn Stephenson at 248/762-7215 or Kristin Sulewski at 773/383-4740.