

The University of Rochester, Office of Faculty Development & Diversity and the Office of Human Resources-Multicultural Affairs and Inclusion sponsored the True Networking Thursdays (TNT) monthly reception/meeting on January 21, 2010 in the School of Medicine and Dentistry's Flaum Atrium. More than 140 members of TNT, University staff and faculty and the greater Rochester community attended this event whose theme was, "Yes, We Can"

True Networking Thursdays (TNT) is an African American professional networking group established in 1998. The members of TNT consist of community leaders, business owners and other professionals. The purpose is to provide the African-American community with opportunities for personal and professional growth, development and interacting. TNT ultimately offers mutual benefits through networking that will strengthen our community. Their mission is to introduce, inform, interact and inspire.

The University of Rochester's own Katherine McGill (President, Urban Performance Arts Center) provided a play-let highlighting the transition in era's when African-Heritage people were Kings and Queens to enslavement to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to President Elect Barack Obama. Several community members (including many children) were actors, musicians and singers for the event.

According to Catherine Thomas, president of the African-American Network @ University of Rochester (AAN), "It was a well attended event and the ambiance and the performances were great". AAN is an affinity group at the University of Rochester. They serve as a resource to provide mentoring and professional development opportunities as well as opening additional communication lines between individuals, the greater Rochester community, and University management.

Dr. Delmonize A. Smith was inaugurated as the new president of TNT during the event meeting.

The University continues to place importance on programs and community engagement that focuses on multiculturalism and inclusivity; whose goal is the recognition and celebration of the many contributions that diverse faculty and staff make to the University environment. To learn more about these initiatives, please visit the Diversity website at <http://www.rochester.edu/diversity>