

### **Liz Daniel's NOBCChE 2019 Reflection:**

NOBCChE is the national organization for the professional advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers. The 46<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of NOBCChE, held in St. Louis, Missouri that year, was my first time attending the conference. I attended as a representative of the University for recruiting purposes with a current PhD candidate of the UR Chemistry department, Shukree Abdul-Rashed.

Months prior to the annual meeting, it had been a great treat to hear from Dr. C. Rose Kennedy, new to the UR Chemistry department, that current NOBCChE president, Dr. Emanuel Waddell, was actually a University of Rochester alum!

Why does such an organization exist? Former NOBCChE president and UR alum, Dr. Emanuel Waddell shares: "Organizations such as NOBCChE allow black and brown students to become part of a larger community. This larger community encourages black and brown students to persist in STEM though they may exist in environments where they may not be welcomed by peers or supported by the institution. NOBCChE and other organizations also serve as a resource to institutions for locating and recruiting talent that may not be represented in their hierarchy at student or leadership levels."

Could it have been that Rochester was an isolating culture?

The mission of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) is to build an eminent cadre of successful diverse global leaders in STEM and advance their professional endeavors by adding value to their academic, development, leadership, and philanthropic endeavors throughout the life-cycle of their careers.

<https://www.nobcche.org/about-us>

It was a lovely event with very warm and genuine networking opportunities that spanned from high school students to seasoned professionals.