

**Shukree Abdul-Rashed NOBCChE 2019 Reflection:**

The NOBCChE Conference was great and I enjoyed the time I had to meet and interact with other African American professionals. I was awarded the NOBCChE Advancing Science Conference grant which covered my conference fee and lodging. My presentation on "Halo-Prins-derived Cationic Cascades and Its Application Towards the Total Synthesis of Citridone A." After my presentation, I received excellent questions as well as the opportunity to have useful exchanges with potential future directions for my research project. At the NOBCChE conference I was auspiciously afforded with the opportunity to meet two UR alumni, Dr. Emanuel Waddell and Dr. Carl Bonner. As underrepresented minority faculty in academia, having the opportunity to connect with other African American scientists was incredibly meaningful, as they were able to provide me with a perspective and advice on their successful navigation through higher education. Furthermore, NOBCChE conference warm and welcoming environment made it easy for me to network with other scientists and forge connections with people I'm sure I will see in various places in the future. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to speak with recruiters from industries such as Pfizer and Eli Lilly, which should assist me as I explore career opportunities beyond the doctorate. In St. Louis, I enjoyed the opportunity I had to explore the city and see the Gateway Arch, the tallest man-made monument in the Western Hemisphere! Overall, I found that I really enjoyed the NOBCChE conference and I look forward to attending in the near future!