

December 9, 2016

Dear Michigan Agriscience Educators:

Please join us for the Michigan Horticulture Teachers Association Professional Development Institute (Winter PDI) being held at Country Inns and Suites in Grand Rapids on January 19-21, 2017.

Each year we strive to put together an interactive and dynamic agenda complete with industry professionals from the area in which the conference is being held. This year is no exception. We are excited to have local business owners share their industry expertise with us, along with some current teachers who will lead workshop sessions focused on inquiry and techniques to better assist with preparing students for FFA career development events. The schedule will also include some familiar faces who will present about technology, classroom resources and connecting students with post-secondary options.

From forestry to floriculture and propagation to agribusiness, come ready to collaborate, connect and network in one of the most supportive learning environments you will find in education today. If you have never attended this conference before, make this the year you give it a try. If you're new to the agriscience classroom, come meet some passionate educators! SCECHs will be offered to interested members.

**Silent Auction:** One tradition made possible year after year by the MHTA is the ability to provide a scholarship for a deserving individual through hosting a silent auction at the annual conference. We are asking that each attendee bring at least two donated items to contribute to the auction's success. Items can be school related or miscellaneous. Regardless of the item, these funds will directly impact a student's growth and education.

**Registration and Membership:** All participants who register prior to December 18th will receive a MHTA long sleeved shirt. Membership for 2017 is included in both the 'Full Conference' and 'Friday Only' options. Please complete the Conference Registration Form online at <https://goo.gl/aRUCyN>. Make checks payable to **Michigan Horticulture Teachers Association** and send to:

ATTN: Heather Pratt, Kent Center Tech Center, 1655 E. Beltline NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525

If you cannot attend this year's conference, but would still like to become a MHTA member, please contact a board member for details!

**Hotel Accommodations:** Please contact Country Inn and Suites 3251 Deposit Dr Northeast, East Beltline at I-96, Exit 38, Grand Rapids, MI 49546 - (616)942-7000. We have a block of rooms reserved under "MHTA" at a cost of \$99.00/night (King room) until December 20, 2016. There are additional taxes and fees. Remember to bring your school's tax exempt number with you to avoid additional taxes.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracey Groom at [tgroom@geneseeisd.org](mailto:tgroom@geneseeisd.org).

We look forward to seeing you in January!

Sincerely,

MHTA Conference Planning Committee

