A senior at Michigan State University majoring in Learning Disabilities Education with a passion for educating urban youth and conducting education research. LaShawn is a member of the Urban Educators Cohort Program and served as a Teaching Fellow in the Office of Supportive Services for two years. In this capacity, she assisted instructors in the freshman seminar UGS 101 – her desire to learn more about college going attitudes flourished in this setting. It was at that time that she sought out an opportunity offered through that same office – becoming a Ronald E. McNair Scholar. As a McNair Scholar, under the mentorship of faculty member Dr. Rebecca Jacobsen, she researched urban students’ perceptions of the collegiate experience. As she continued dive into research she recognized that her ultimate goal was to earn an advanced degree. Eager to seek more exposure in the field of higher education, she applied for the American Educational Research Association Undergraduate Student Education Research Training Workshop – she was selected as a fellow and will be attending the annual meeting in Vancouver British Colombia, Canada this upcoming April. Never forgetting her first passion to become an educator she will be graduating from MSU in May and teaching in Chicago Public Schools next fall. She later plans to pursue an advanced degree in urban education reform.

**ABOUT AERA Undergraduate Workshop Description:**

This workshop is designed to build the talent pool of undergraduate students who plan to pursue doctorate degrees in education research or in disciplines and fields that examine education issues. Applicants are sought who have potential and interest in pursuing careers as education researchers, faculty members, or other professionals who contribute to the research field.

The workshop, led by junior and senior scholars, will give fellows an overview of how education research is designed across fields, how quantitative and qualitative research methods are used in studies, and how research is applied to education policy and practice. Senior researchers and faculty from both academic institutions and applied research organizations (i.e., The American Institutes for Research, Educational Testing Service, the College Board, and the Urban Institute) will introduce education research as a field and share their area of expertise and knowledge with the fellows. Workshop activities will also focus on exploring graduate education, applying to graduate school, and beginning a career in education research.

Fellows will be paired with a faculty member and a graduate student who will serve as program mentors. In addition to attending the workshop, fellows will attend preselected paper sessions and presentations during the AERA Annual Meeting.

April 12th -17th
Vancouver British Columbia, Canada