

## MANRRS Purdue Excels at National Conference

*By Christine Charles, MANRRS Purdue President*

The MANRRS Purdue Chapter attended the MANRRS National Career Fair and Training Conference in Overland Park, Kansas, where they had the opportunity to compete against other chapters across the country in various contests, attend workshops that spanned disciplines, and attend a career fair where they were able to meet with future employers and/or prospective graduate schools.

The MANRRS Purdue chapter had the most students ranking in the top three individuals/teams of any chapter in various contests held at the conference. Each of the



top three finalists received a monetary prize and award certificate. While we are extremely proud of all 12 members who competed, we'd like to highlight several members who were recognized for their hard work and dedication that enabled them to achieve some of the highest rankings in the country for their respective contests:

- Zac Brown (**ASEC**) was elected Region V Graduate Student Vice President and will sit on the national executive board in the 2019-2020 year.
- Nira Grynheim (**ANSC**) was awarded the Farm Credit Scholarship, which covered her registration, transportation, and housing at the conference. Of the many applications received for this scholarship, only 20 were awarded. This opportunity allowed her to interact directly with Farm Credit leaders and provided professional leadership development and training to enhance her preparedness to enter careers in the agriculture industry.
- Ron Smith (**ABE**) placed 1st nationally in the Graduate Student Research Discussion.
- Camille Vann (**FNR**) placed 1st in the Lincoln Douglas debate on a three-person collaborative team consisting of students from other schools in our region.
- Christine Charles (**AGRY**) was one of five students who received a LEADing change award in recognition of their leadership in MANRRS
- Theo Bowman High School Jr. MANRRS students Zaria Smith, Nicolas Washington, Derrion Moore, and George Johnson III placed 1st in the Jr. MANRRS research poster contest and presented original research at the national conference entitled "Soil Microbes".

For the second year in a row, the MANRRS Purdue chapter was recognized as the premier Chapter in our Region.