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## **Industry Leaders Promote Uncommon Career Choices for Minorities** National organization catalyst for the advancement of minorities within agriculture and natural science industries

**DENVER, Colo., March 27, 2008** – The State of Colorado will be center stage March 27– 29 to showcase its agriculture and natural sciences' leaders as well as promote the state as a great place to work at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS) Career Fair & Training Conference.

During the conference, more than 800 students and industry professionals are expected to convene at the Marriott Tech Center in Denver for the opportunity to enhance job readiness skills, network, recruit and share information on the vast career opportunities within the agriculture and natural sciences industries.

Open to students and professionals from all racial and ethnic groups, MANRRS represents 1,200 members in more than 70 chapters across the nation. MANRRS was formed in 1986 by the merging of the Minority Agriculture and Natural Resources Association (MANRA), Michigan State University, and Minorities in Agriculture (MIA), Pennsylvania State University. It is the only organization to provide a networking and support system for minority students interested in pursuing careers in both agriculture and natural sciences.

Through the conference and other strategic initiatives, MANRRS and its many supporters, including 2008 Conference Partners – Colorado Division of Wildlife, USDA Farm Service Agency, USDA Forest Service, and USDOJ National Park Service - hope to help address the question, "Who, from the next generation, will lead agriculture, natural resource management and industry-related areas?"

"The food, agriculture and natural resources system needs higher numbers of talented youth to support demand," said Dr. Zelia Wiley, MANRRS National President. "According to projections outlined in an employment study initiated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, there will be more annual employment opportunities within these industries over the next few years than can be filled by the number of new qualified graduates coming out of our colleges and universities."



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And, although the current Census of Agriculture shows the number of minority farm operators is on the rise, the number of minority students and career professionals interested in agriculture and related sciences, outside of production, are still few and far between.

Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences (MANRRS), is the only national society, fostering the professional involvement of minorities in agriculture and natural sciences. With more than 70 chapters and 1,200 members nationwide, MANRRS helps prepare its members from all racial ethnic groups for opportunities within a global society through personal and professional development. Visit [www.manrrs.org](http://www.manrrs.org) for more information.

## A Few Conference Highlights:

- **Field Trips:** Thursday, March 27 to the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge, Coors Brewery and Chatfield Planting Base (Fish Hatchery), Denver Museum of Nature and Science along with the US Mint.
- **Motivational Speaker Jerome Ringo:** Activist and President of the Apollo Alliance, Mr. Ringo will be speaking during general session at the Marriott Tech Center at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 27.
- **Career Fair:** Some employers will conduct on-the-spot hiring! Friday March 28 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Marriott Tech Center.
- **Motivational Speaker Debbye Turner:** CBS Correspondent and former Miss USA, Ms. Turner is a staff correspondent on CBS' The Early Show, a doctor of veterinary medicine and was crowned Miss USA in 1990. She will be speaking at The Wildlife Experience in Parker on Friday, March 28 at 7:15 p.m.

## References for More Information:

- 2008 MANRRS Conference Agenda: <http://www.manrrs.org>
- Conference Sponsor Organizations:
  - Colorado Division of Wildlife: <http://wildlife.state.co.us>
  - U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mtn. Region: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2>
  - USDA Farm Service Agency: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
  - National Park Service: <http://www.nps.gov>

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