UM Women of Color Task Force
Conference Themes & Keynote Speakers, 1983 - 2012

1983 – Survival, Career Development and Networking
   Bernadine Denning PhD

1984 – Survival, Career Development and Networking
   Jennie Partee and Beulah Sanders, WCTF Founders

1985 – Women of Color: Striving for Excellence
   Carman Harlan (WDIV news personality)
   Dr. Mildred Tirado, UM Counseling Services Center

1986 – Focus On: Effectiveness, Productivity, and Professionalism
   Honorable Cynthia D. Stephens, Wayne County Circuit Court Judge
   Ms. Rose Martin, Director of the Peace Neighborhood Center

1987 – Working Constructively Toward the Future: If You Think You Can, You Can
   M. Susan Watson (Detroit Free Press Columnist) and Laura Rendon (Assistant Professor of Education at the University of South Carolina)

1988 – Imagine What We Can Be: Challenge, Create, Celebrate
   Dr. R. Griffin

1989 – Shades of Quality: Emerging, Excelling, Empowering
   A. Deer

1990 – Progressing Towards Plurality: The Challenge of the 90s

1991 – See Beyond Today: Inspiring a Vision to Enhance the Quality of Life
   Dr. Gwendolyn Calvert Baker, Director of the YWCA of USA
   and President of NYC Board of Education
   Dr. Howard McCurdy (microbiologist)

1992 – Ten Years In Retrospect: Commemorating Our Past, Securing Our Future
   Valerie J. Johnson, Director of Native American Services
   Susan L. Taylor, Editor in chief of ESSENCE Magazine

1993 – Globally Pulling Our Cultures Together: Positioning Ourselves to Empower, Impact and Excel
   Helen Zia, MS Magazine
   Sonia Sanchez, Activist

1994 – Developing a Plan for Excellence
   Elizabeth Allen, Ph.D., R.N.

1995 – Success: Beginning with the End in Mind
   Benjamin Carson, MD, Cardiologist and UMMS Graduate

1996 – Building and Creating Opportunities for Growth
   Patricia Russell-McCloud, Federal Communications Commission
1997 – Looking Back, Moving Forward: 15 Years with the Women of Color Task Force
Thelma Wells, Christian TV Personality (Dallas, TX)

1998 – Reforging Our Lives into the New Millennium
Vanna Novak, Motivational Speaker

1999 – Ready, Set, Go TEAM!
Laurita Thomas, UM Health System

2000 – The Celebration of a New Era, New Opportunities and a New You
Dr. Bertice Berry, Social Activist and National Talk Show Host

2001 – Not Without A Struggle: Honoring our Past, Taking Control of Our Future
Rev. Shaheerah Stephens, Author and Community Activist

2002 – Women on a Mission: 20 Years of Excellence
Chief Benny Napoleon, Detroit Police Department

2003 – One University, One Community, One Destiny: Staff and the University’s Mission
President Mary Sue Coleman
Sue Guevara, UM Women’s Basketball Coach

2004 – Finding Your Path: Developing the Excellence Within
Beverly Jenkins, Author (Fiction)

2005 – Inclusion and Opportunity: Recognizing Everyone’s Contribution
Dr. Toni Hoover, Vice President
Pfizer GRD, Ann Arbor Campus

2006 – Healthy Person, Healthy Society
Pete Thomas, NBC’s “The Biggest Loser”
Motivational Speaker

2007 – 25 Years of Promoting Leadership & Diversity
Dr. Mary Frances Berry, University of Pennsylvania
Former Chair, US Commission on Civil Rights

2008 – Work, Lead & Succeed In A Global Economy
Dr. Kenya Ayers, Executive Director of Esperanza Communications
Past State Chairperson, Michigan ACE Network

2009 – Enhance U: Education, Empowerment & Equity
Dr. Howard G. Adams, President of H. G. Adams and Associates, Inc.
Founding Director, GEM National Institute on Mentoring

2010 – Excel in Uncertain Times: Identify Resources & Maximize Opportunities
Ms. Gail Perry-Mason, Vice President - Oppenheimer & Co, Inc.

2011 – YoU First: Balancing Work, Family & Life
Rep. Shanelle Jackson, Michigan (D)
2012 – 30 Years of Legacy, Leadership and Change
Dr. Johnnetta B Cole, National Museum of African Art