EAST LANSING, Michigan, May 15, 2014– The School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University is pleased to announce the addition of Shavonda Johnson as a SROP Intern for Summer 2014. Shavonda’s research will investigate the causes and consequences of gang membership among a sample of 3,820 middle and high school students across the country. Her primary responsibilities will include assisting MSU professor, Dr. Chris Melde with writing and data analysis for scholarly papers.

"I am excited to work with Ms. Johnson this Summer,” stated Dr. Melde. “Her enthusiasm and curiosity should make for an enjoyable and productive research partnership."

Shavonda is a third year Criminology and Sociology major at The Ohio State University in Columbus, OH. She has a strong academic background and has also volunteered as a mentor for a local juvenile correctional agency as well as served as an assistant for Ronald McDonald charities.

“I would like to get an advanced degree in Criminal justice because I know that in the criminal justice field I can make a difference,” said Shavonda. “I genuinely enjoy helping youth who are a part of the criminal justice system and those at risk of being a part of the system. SROP will give me all of the necessary tools that I need in order to apply to graduate school.”

“I believe that Ms. Shavonda Johnson’s academic accomplishment, career aspirations, and research interest make her more than capable of achieving great success,” as Dr. Heather E. Burton comments, Shavonda’ undergraduate mentor and PhD Director of the Office of Graduate Student Development at The University of Akron Graduate School. “I have no hesitation in recommending her as a research participant with the Summer Research Opportunities Program.”

For more information about the MSU-SROP program, contact Steven Thomas (deshawn@grd.msu.edu) at 517-353-3262 or visit www.grad.msu.edu/SROP.