MINORITY MENTORING IN
MATH AND SCIENCES

“A MINORITY’S TRIP THROUGH MATH &
SCIENCE: MY PERSONAL JOURNEY”

FEBRUARY 3, 2010
6:00-8:00 P.M.

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
1895 ROOM
MLK JR. UNIVERSITY UNION
Dr. Megginson is an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Mathematics and the Associate Dean for Undergraduate and Graduate Education in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan. He grew up in the small farming community of Sheldon, IL, as the child of a Native American (Lakota) mother and a father with family roots deep in northwestern England. Being of mixed ancestry caused him some challenges in school that were overcome with the help of some remarkable mentors.

He received his B.S. in Physics from the University of Illinois, and worked in industry as a computer systems software specialist for eight years. After receiving his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Illinois, he became a faculty member at Eastern Illinois University in the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science in 1983. In 1992, he joined the Mathematics faculty of the University of Michigan.

Dr. Megginson has been active at the national level in programs to address the under-representation of minorities in mathematics. Some of his recognitions for these efforts include the U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring in 1997; the Ely S. Parker Award of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society in 1999; the Etta Zuber Falconer Excellence in Mathematics Teaching Award of the Quality Education for Minorities Network in 2006; and in 2009, he received the Mathematical Association of America’s Yueh-Gin Gung and Dr. Charles Y. Hu Award for Distinguished Service in Mathematics.

His favorite quote about mentoring is by Isaac Newton, and was not actually written about mentoring, but should have been. It expresses better than almost anything else the deep appreciation that people who have had mentors feel for the time and effort that those people have selflessly given to help those who follow: “If I have seen farther than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.”