



**DIVISION of ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**  
**School of Graduate Studies and Research**

Call for Abstracts  
University of Maryland Eastern Shore  
Eighth Annual Graduate Education Week  
Thirteenth Annual Graduate School Regional Research Symposium  
Student Services Center  
April 18th, 2024  
9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

The School of Graduate Studies at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore is pleased to announce its eighth annual Graduate Education Week and 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Regional Research Symposium to be held on Thursday, April 18th, 2024. The theme of this year's symposium is:

***Sustainable Horizons: Exploring Pathways for Knowledge Transfer through  
Multidimensional Research***

The theme of this year's research symposium asks you to consider what it means to be sustainable. Sustainability is indexical by definition, but is most simply defined as, *the quality of being able to continue over a period of time*. Importantly, the pursuit of sustainability differs from that of maintenance. Oftentimes, we find that instead of living our lives in such a way as to be considered sustainable, our goal is, in fact, more short-sighted and directed at maintaining our status quo rather than aiming for the long-term goal of sustainability. To be sustainable implies our willingness to seek introspection and the courage to make necessary changes to improve our lives.

Sustainability requires us to explore paths less-traveled, or possibly, to create them. Sustainability also can also require an expansion of our work, networks, practices, attitudes, and processes, and is therefore, collaborative and multidimensional in nature. In contrast, perhaps sustainability involves a pruning of some or all of these things—a chance for us to let go of the excess or baggage that is holding us back from reaching our potential. Nevertheless, the effort to achieve sustainability requires multidimensionality, both in our approaches and in our work. It was in this spirit that we developed this year's primary thematic question: *In what ways is your research sustainable?*

In an effort to foster sustainable horizons for research, we have chosen to highlight

themes of sustainability, knowledge transfer, and multidimensionality. We are seeking to solicit submissions from researchers across disciplines and want to emphasize that all are welcome to share and celebrate their work at the research symposium.

We look forward to your participation this year. If you need assistance with registration or abstract submission, please contact Dr. Kelsie Endicott at [kjendicott@umes.edu](mailto:kjendicott@umes.edu) and Dr. Wele Elangwe at [welangwe@umes.edu](mailto:welangwe@umes.edu). If you would like to support the Research Symposium by volunteering, please sign up by March 1<sup>st</sup>: <https://forms.gle/PvbqjX9HmDGU3iRu7>

Respectfully,



LaKeisha L. Harris, Ph.D.