

2013 AGNES FAY MORGAN AWARD  
MALIKA JEFFRIES-EL



Malika Jeffries-El is an Associate Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State University. She was born in Brooklyn, NY on March 2, 1974, where she lived in public housing and attended public school. Although her situation was less than ideal, she always had a passion for science that her parents encouraged her to pursue. After attending Brooklyn Technical High School for science and engineering, she went on to receive BA degrees in Chemistry and Africana Studies from Wellesley College, and Master's and Ph.D degrees in chemistry from The George Washington University. After spending one year at Smith College as a Mendenhall Fellow she worked as a post-doctoral fellowship under the direction of Professor Richard D. McCullough at Carnegie Mellon University. In 2005 she joined the faculty in the Chemistry Department at Iowa State University and was promoted to associate professor with tenure in 2012.

Her research focuses on the development of organic semiconductor-materials that combine the processing properties of polymers with the electronic properties of semiconductors. She has authored more than 30 peer-reviewed publications, received over 1100 citations and given more than 79 invited conference talks and university seminars domestically and abroad. She has won numerous awards including the 3M untenured faculty award (2008), the Emerald Honors for most promising minority scientist (2008), the Lloyd Ferguson Award from the National Organization of Black Chemist and Chemical Engineers (2009), NSF CAREER award (2009), the ISU-College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Diversity Award (2011) and the ACS- Women Chemist Committee Rising Star award (2012). She also held the ISU Gregory L. and Kathleen C. Geoffroy Faculty Fellowship (2005-2008). She has received support for her research during her time at ISU from the National Science

Foundation, the Petroleum Research Fund, the Iowa Office of Energy Independence and the 3M foundation.

Malika is also a dedicated volunteer and has served in several activities within the American Chemical Society including the editorial advisory board for Chemical and Engineering News, the Society Committee on Education (SocEd), the advisory board for the Women Chemist of Color Initiative and as a councilor for her local section. She also serves the community through her work with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She is a native of Brooklyn, New York.