

IGNITE TALKS MSU



ABOUT IGNITE TALKS

16 YEARS

Ignite began in 2006 as a grassroots event in Seattle, Washington, envisioned by co-founders Brady Forrest and Bre Pettis. What started as a single gathering quickly grew into a global phenomenon, empowering local communities to embrace creativity, innovation, and storytelling through their own Ignite events.

350 CITIES

Ignite events have brought communities together in more than 350 cities worldwide—spanning bustling metropolises, small towns, schools, and conferences. With new locations joining every day, the movement continues to grow.

6 CONTINENTS

Ignite's reach has extended across six continents, driven by passionate local leaders who have embraced the mission of creating spaces for ideas.

Each Ignite Talk features a 5-minute presentation using 20 slides that auto-advance every 15 seconds, challenging speakers to convey their ideas succinctly and engagingly. This unique structure fosters creativity and innovation, encouraging presenters to distill their messages to the essence.



ENGAGEMENT | INNOVATION | COMMUNITY

The MSU Museum CoLab Studio's Ignite Talks provides a dynamic platform for MSU students to share their research with a wider audience. Rooted in the Museum's mission to serve the Michigan State University community by facilitating and creating experiences at the nexus of the arts, sciences, cultures, and technologies, Ignite Talks MSU empower students to connect their academic work to broader societal contexts. Each presenter is challenged to distill their message into a fast-paced, 5-minute presentation accompanied by 20 automatically advancing slides, ensuring a captivating and impactful delivery.

The value of Ignite Talks extends far beyond the stage. For students, the experience enhances communication skills, cultivates confidence, and encourages reflection on the societal impact of their work. Through workshops and mentorship, participants learn the art of storytelling, improvisation, and audience engagement—skills that are critical in any field. For the audience, Ignite Talks MSU highlights the diversity of ideas and research thriving at MSU.

Ignite Talks MSU exemplifies the MSU Museum's commitment to collaboration, creativity, and equity in addressing challenges and striving for a better world. By engaging communities and promoting innovation, the program fosters connection, curiosity, and creativity. Celebrating the voices and visions of MSU students, Ignite Talks are a bridge between academia and the public, inspiring change and shaping the future.



ALYSSA SAUNDERS

College of Natural Science,
Department of Integrative Biology

The Shockingly
Tail-less Sperm
of African
Electric Fish



I first learned about Ignite through the MSU Museum's call for speakers for their Spring 2024 series. Ignite immediately piqued my interest because of my passion for science communication and the unique challenge it presented: convey your idea in 5 minutes using 20 slides that automatically advance every 15 seconds.

Through the workshop series, I developed a talk about my research on the tail-less sperm cells of African electric fish. My focus was on how imaging their sperm and eggs could provide insights into how these non-swimming sperm function and their potential implications for human male infertility research. The workshops were invaluable, fostering brainstorming and feedback in both in-person and virtual settings.

“ Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of the series was the supportive atmosphere. The collaborative workshops allowed brainstorming and feedback that enriched my presentation and built connections across disciplines.”

Unlike competitive academic settings, Ignite fostered a collaborative spirit. Presenting on a large stage with bright lights and a live-streaming camera was intimidating but exhilarating. My opening humor— “Let's talk about sex!”—broke the ice, and the supportive environment made it easy to recover from minor mistakes.

Ignite transformed my science communication skills, built lasting connections, and reinforced my career goals in research and outreach.



ENRIQUE NÚÑEZ MUSSA

School of Journalism, College of
Communication Arts and Sciences

**A Celebrity Cow
is a Fake News
Lesson for Today's
Journalism**



Being an Ignite Speaker at MSU was a fantastic experience. The MSU Museum team had a well-prepared program where participants from diverse disciplines were treated like professional speakers. We started with a workshop on improvisation and storytelling, led by an expert in science communication. It helped us build confidence in delivering our presentations and enhancing their structure. It also served as an icebreaker with other participants, creating a friendly and collaborative atmosphere.

Each stage of the process was clearly defined. We even had the chance to rehearse at the presentation venue and receive feedback from a professor from the Department of Theatre. These details added quality to the experience, resulting in presentations of an excellent standard.

“As a researcher, I can attest that participating in Ignite helped me reflect on the societal impact of my work and improved my presentation skills.”

I could see how my presentation evolved and improved over time. I also want to emphasize how comfortable and well-supported I felt throughout the process. This project truly deserves to be continued, as the MSU Museum team works passionately to make it a top-notch experience for the audience and the speakers.

IGNITE
TALKS

Ignite
MSU
MuSeUm
Colab Studio

MICHIGAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY
MuSeUm

MSU MUSEUM IGNITE TALKS
NO 30 2024

TEACH
CARE OF

WITHOUT PROPER
PREVENT ER VISITS



DESTINY KANNING

Department of Pediatric Medicine,
College of Natural Science

Rethinking
Patient Education
in Emergency
Overutilization



Presenting as an Ignite Speaker for the MSU Museum was an incredibly exciting and enriching experience that allowed me to share my passion for improving healthcare education for emergency services while connecting with like-minded researchers. I sought out this opportunity after attending a previous Ignite event, eager to challenge myself in public speaking and improve my ability to communicate complex research to a broad audience. Ignite provided a unique platform to engage with a diverse group of speakers and audience members while raising awareness about critical community issues. Crafting a concise, impactful message in such a short time limit helped me drive my ideas forward and demonstrate my commitment to health initiatives.

This experience has clarified and encouraged my pursuit of a meaningful medical career focused on emergency medicine and health policy.

“Preparing for my talk taught me the importance of distilling information into digestible pieces and allowing the presentation to guide my delivery.”

The event reinforced my dedication to advocating for health literacy and educational interventions in Michigan communities, where the need is evident. Moving forward, I view this experience as more than a CV addition—it is a steppingstone toward public speaking and outreach opportunities that align with my long-term goal of making a global impact in health policy.

Event organizer and MSU Museum program manager, Abbie Stevens, expressed her enthusiasm for the event. **“Ignite Talks MSU provides a platform for students to share their research in creative ways. The MSU Museum is proud to host this interdisciplinary event, fostering connections between the community and student researchers at MSU.”**



GET INVOLVED!

ATTEND | SPONSOR | PRESENT

The MSU Museum hosts two Ignite Talks each academic year—one during the fall semester and another in the spring. These events are open to all enrolled MSU students, spanning every level, college, and department. To date, we have welcomed undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students from 11 colleges and 24 departments and programs across campus. Together, we are advancing student success and amplifying the impact of research at MSU.

Your support makes Ignite Talks MSU possible. Whether you attend, sponsor, or present your research, you are helping to create a vibrant platform for creativity, connection, and collaboration. Let's keep the spark alive!

SUPPORT IGNITE TALKS:

Scan the QR code to donate.

Or contact:

Liz Ivkovich
Senior Director of Advancement,
Cultural Arts
lgi@msu.edu | (517) 353-5213



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