Preparing students for non-academic careers

Crystal Bailey
  • Works at APS on careers issues
  • bailey@aps.org

Career pathways
  • About half of physics bachelor’s go directly to workforce
  • About half of physics master’s go directly to workforce
  • Large fraction of physics PhD students do not go to academia
  • See AIP data

APS efforts in careers
  • Undergraduate events – Future of Physics days
    o Career panels, focused on non-academic, non-PhD physicists
    o Judging posters and oral presentations, awards
  • Grad/postdoc events
    o Grad student lunch with experts, with industrial physicists
    o Panel on entrepreneurship
  • Job fair – at March Meeting and DPP Meeting
  • Webinars
    o Professional development
    o About once per month
  • Strategic plan – early career task force
    o Primary recommendation to form local chapters
    o Chapters will be student-driven, focused on geographic region
    o Periodic meetings of people in industry, undergrads, grads
    o Will pilot a few chapters to see if this idea can work
  • Planning a conference in June 2014 on physics entrepreneurship
    o Explore physics entrepreneurship track, internships, etc.
    o Form a network of faculty engaged in such efforts
    o Congressional Visit Day

What is the best way for faculty to get more informed about industry?
  • Get informed about APS efforts, sign up for Wavefront
  • APS has industrial speaker lists
  • CCPD just started a distinguished lectureship for industrial physicist
  • Invite graduates who went into industry to come back and give a talk, ask alumni office to help
  • Faculty member could do a sabbatical in industry

Physics has a perception issue
  • Students are not aware of all the job opportunities with physics degree
  • Many ways to be successful
  • Can invite engineering faculty to tell students how to get a job
• Check out Peter Fisk webinar on getting a job

Go to aps.org/careers and click on “statistics” to get data on where students get jobs