Abstract

Department of Physics & Astronomy at Howard University:
An Overview of the Graduate Program

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The poster will present an overview of the history of the department, current programs, and innovations underway to increase graduate student enrollment and retention. The department’s experience in increasing minority graduate students and the enrichment activities in accomplishing these goals will be summarized. Such activities have included exciting lectures by Physics Nobel Laureates for the past four years that have afforded an opportunity for graduate students to interact with them. Interdisciplinary research with a focus on atmospheric science has been facilitated by Research Centers funded by NASA and NOAA. These outstanding Centers facilitated the development of the Howard University Atmospheric Science Research Facility in Beltsville, MD, into a world-class research site. It has attracted scientists and students from a variety of prestigious organizations. This in turn has led to joint publications and research presentations with faculty and graduate students. The faculty members are also involved in nanophysics, string theory, laser spectroscopy, magnetism, and superconductivity research, and have received extensive citations and recognition by peers. Some faculty members have received Fulbright and NASA fellowships and one has been elected to be on the Board of Trustees of UCAR. However, challenges still remain that impact the ability of the department to attract and retain outstanding graduate students.