Graduate Education Conference

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American Center for Physics

APS Bridge Program

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Underrepresented Minority Undergraduate Majors

US College-Age Underrepresented Minority Population

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Engineering
- Math & Stats
- Physics
- Earth Sciences

Data points:
- 1995: 277
- 2010: 400
URM Physics PhDs to Minority Population

US College-age minority population

52 PhDs awarded to minorities in 2010

Sources: IPEDS Completion survey by race, US Census

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Physics Degrees Awarded to Underrepresented Minorities

- Bachelor's Degrees: ~400 degrees
- Doctoral Degrees: ~400 degrees (Current Situation), ~30 more PhDs (Project Goals)

Source: IPEDS, US Census
APS Bridge Program: Key Components

- Recruiting through graduate programs across the US (now 100+ institutions, representing 70% of all doctoral students)
- Spend 1-2 years in a “Bridging program”
  - Take advanced UG or entry-level graduate coursework
  - Graduate-level research
  - Demonstrate ability to do independent research and succeed in graduate-level coursework
  - Receive coaching on preparing graduate admissions package (letters, GRE, statements)
  - Accepted into doctoral program
- Receive mentoring in doctoral program (especially in first years)
- Research into barriers; disseminate successful program elements
- Build a national coalition of departments committed to improving participation
GRE Quantitative Scores

Source: ETS, "Factors that can influence performance on the GRE General Test 2006-2007"

GRE Quantitative scores for US Citizens

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