Physics ranks at the bottom of science disciplines in educating the growing US population of African-, Hispanic-, and Native-Americans. The percentage of PhDs in physics awarded to underrepresented minorities (URM) among US citizens has remained essentially constant at 5-6% over the past decade. The American Physical Society’s (APS) Bridge Program is an NSF- and APS-funded effort to address this issue and increase the number of URM students who receive PhDs in physics to 10%, the percentage that currently receive physics Bachelor’s degrees. The project has established four bridge sites in Ohio, Florida, and California that provide coursework, research experiences, and substantial mentoring for students who either did not apply to graduate school, or were not admitted through traditional graduate school admissions. These programs enable students to successfully gain acceptance and make progress toward doctoral degrees.

**THE APS BRIDGE PROGRAM**

**THE APS BRIDGE PROGRAM**

**SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES**

APS provides project oversight and centralized activities to build recognition, and to act collectively in ways that benefit the entire physics community. The APS Bridge Program is currently involved in:
- providing a common application for students
- organizing recruiting/relationship-building visits to minority serving institutions
- establishing additional institution-independent mentoring for students
- acting as student advocate to help mediate solutions to problems
- facilitating common data collection, analysis, and research to demonstrate effectiveness of these methods
- providing workshops for students and faculty mentors
- raising awareness within the physics community on issues faced by URM students
- disseminating results and best practices through the Society’s publications

**PARTICIPATING BRIDGE PROGRAM INSTITUTIONS**

**MEMBERSHIP INSTITUTION GROWTH SINCE PROJECT INCEPTION**

In physics, the addition of about 30 PhD degrees each year will bring the percentage of URM students receiving PhDs up to the same percentage of those students who receive Bachelor’s degrees. The Program has surpassed its expectations.

87% of all URM physics PhDs are granted by APS Bridge Program membership institutions.
Get Involved!

Faculty
Join as a Member or Partnership Institution, attend the annual program meeting, and learn more about student recruiting.

Students
Apply online by March 20:
www.APSBridgeProgram.org/about/students.cfm.

National Advisory Board

J.D. Garcia
University of Arizona
Yolanda George
AAAS
Paul Gueye
Hampton University
Wendell Hill
University of Maryland, College Park
Anthony Johnson
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Brittany Kamai
Vanderbilt University
Ramon Lopez
University of Texas at Arlington
James Mathis
University of Michigan
Steve McGuire
Southern University
Cherry Murray, Chair
Harvard University

Member Institutions

The APS Bridge Program offers free membership to colleges, universities, national labs, non-profits, and educational organizations committed to improving diversity in the physics community. Membership Institutions do not receive direct funding, but receive a number of benefits. Learn more about Member Institutions at www.APSBridgeProgram.org/institutions/member.

Partnership Institutions

The APS Bridge Program is developing a national network of doctoral granting Partnership institutions where bridge and other students, if admitted, will receive mentoring and assistance in making the transition into a doctoral program. These institutions make a commitment to ensuring these conditions are established, working with diverse students, and supporting them as graduate scholars. Learn more about Partnership Institutions at www.APSBridgeProgram.org/institutions/partnership.

Contact:

Brian Beckford
American Physical Society
One Physics Ellipse, College Park, MD 20740
phone: (301) 209 3398
beckford@aps.org

This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. 1143070. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.