

Professional Societies Supporting Under-represented Groups in Physics

Know a society that should be added to this list? Contact Kendra at krand@aip.org.

American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) www.aises.org

The AISES mission is to increase substantially the representation of American Indian and Alaskan Natives in engineering, science and other related technology disciplines.

Through a variety of educational programs, AISES offers financial, academic and cultural support to American Indians and Alaska Natives from middle school through graduate school. AISES provides professional development activities to enable teachers to work effectively with Native students. AISES also develops culturally appropriate curricula and publications. AISES builds partnerships with tribes, schools, other non-profit organizations, corporations, foundations and government agencies to realize its goals.

American Physical Society (APS) www.aps.org/programs/minorities/

APS is committed to the inclusion of underrepresented minorities in physics and has spent decades working on programs to increase the recruitment and retention of African Americans, Hispanic Americans and Native Americans in the field. The APS has worked on several aspects of this issue from enhancing how science is taught in elementary, middle and high schools in order to preserve the natural curiosity of students from all backgrounds; to providing mentors and funding to minority high school students and undergraduates in order to help them navigate their physics education and careers; to providing opportunities for the professional success of underrepresented faculty, researchers, and industrial physicists.

Association for Women in Science (AWIS) www.awis.org

AWIS is a non-profit association which works to promote women's activities in all scientific fields, from mentoring to scholarships to job listings.

As part of its efforts to promote the entrance and advancement of women in science, AWIS has a long-standing commitment to fostering the careers of women science professionals. Events at our local chapters across the country facilitate networking between women scientists at all levels and in all career paths. AWIS chapters also encourage the participation of girls and women in science by sponsoring educational activities in schools and communities.

At the national level, AWIS publishes a variety of materials to inform girls and women about science programs and women's issues, including the bimonthly AWIS Magazine. The organization serves as a voice for women in science by helping to shape national policy through Congressional testimony and by participating in a variety of national coalitions.

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National Society of Black Physicists (NSBP) www.nsbp.org

Founded in 1977 at Morgan State University, the mission of the NSBP is to promote the professional well-being of African American physicists and physics students within the international scientific community and within society at large.

The organization seeks to develop and support efforts to increase opportunities for African Americans in physics and to increase their numbers and visibility of their scientific work. It also seeks to develop activities and programs that highlight and enhance the benefits of the scientific contributions that African American physicists provide for the international community. The society seeks to raise the general knowledge and appreciation of physics in the African American community.

National Society of Hispanic Physicists (NSHP) www.hispanicphysicists.org

The purpose of this society is to promote the professional well-being and recognize the accomplishments of Hispanic physicists within the scientific community of the United States and within society at large.

The Society seeks to develop and support efforts to increase opportunities for Hispanics in physics and to increase the number of practicing Hispanic physicists, particularly by encouraging Hispanic students to enter a career in physics.

Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans (SACNAS) www.sacnas.org

The mission of SACNAS is to encourage Chicano/Latino and Native American students to pursue graduate education and obtain the advanced degrees necessary for science research, leadership, and teaching careers at all levels.

For 35 years, SACNAS has provided strong national leadership in improving and expanding opportunities for minorities in the scientific workforce and academia; mentoring college students within science, mathematics, and engineering; as well as, supporting quality precollege (K-12) science education. SACNAS' annual national conference and precollege teacher training workshops, chapters program, postdoc and leadership initiatives, and online internship and job placement resources are tools that help a diverse community of undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral researchers, professors, administrators, and precollege educators achieve expertise within their disciplines.

Society of Physics Students (SPS) www.spsnational.org

SPS is a professional association explicitly designed for students. Membership, through collegiate chapters, is open to anyone interested in physics. The only requirement for membership is that you be interested in physics. Besides physics majors, our members include majors in chemistry, computer science, engineering, geology, mathematics, medicine, and other fields.

In keeping with its commitment to help students transform themselves into contributing members of the professional physics community, the SPS National Council recently adopted “Future Faces of Physics” as the theme for the 2007-2008 academic year. With this theme, the council aims to raise visibility and focus on issues of student diversity in physics.

