Methods of Raising Awareness and Increasing Participation of Underrepresented Minorities in Physics Ph.D. Programs

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The Problem

URM Populations
33% College Age American
13.5% Physics Bachelors
11% Physics Masters
7% Physics PhD
Motivation

- Sense of Belonging
- Social Isolation
- Academic Isolation
- Impostor Syndrome
- Lack of Mentors
- Community Support
- Funding

WHAT WAS NOT MENTIONED
Talent
Ability

Figure 5: Students’ sense of isolation in physics classes or labs by race
Source: TEAM-UP student survey Caption: Students’ sense of isolation in physics classes or labs by race.
Key Factors in success

• Mentors
• Belonging
• Pipeline

Where can these be found?

• APS Bridge Program
• Summer Bridge
What is a bridge program?

What does it provide?
- Mentorship
- Accountability
- Research Opportunity
- Funding

Who is its target audience?
- Bachelor’s Degree
- Desire to pursue PhD
If it exists…?

Why isn’t the situation improving?
3-5 year Graduation Cycle
Encourage additional applicants
How to get more applicants?

• Knowledge of the program
• Early Mentorship
• Belonging
• Partnership
Questions?

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this summer!!

SPS Programs
APS Programs
Brián Clash

APS Minorities Programs
https://aps.org/programs/minorities/index.cfm
AIP Team-UP report