



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

Future Faces of Physics Award Report

Project Proposal Title	Diversity and Inclusion in Physics at Juniata
Name of School	Juniata College
SPS Chapter Number	3392
Project Lead (name and email address)	Camden Kasik Kasikcl15@juniata.edu
Total Amount Received from SPS	\$500.00
Total Amount Expended from SPS	\$500.00

Summary of Award Activity

The physics department at Juniata College decided to remodel the hallway and wanted to clearly demonstrate its commitment to diversity and inclusion. The entrance to the hallway now has posters of astronauts from underrepresented groups in physics and silhouettes of physics students filled in with stars and galaxies. The theme of this project is that "we are all made from stardust" and the silhouettes are meant to remind us of that. The display will raise awareness for, and demonstrate the physics department's commitment to, diversity and inclusion.

Statement of Activity

Overview of Award Activity

The physics wing at Juniata College was in need of a facelift, and the department decided to decorate the wing with different pictures, posters, and writing promoting diversity in physics with the theme that "we are all made of stardust". 12" x 18" posters of astronauts from underrepresented groups of physics were put up in the entrance to the hallway. Life sized print outs of physics students turned into silhouettes with a backdrop of galaxies were put on the walls which fit in with the overarching theme. A foamboard was hung at the entrance to the hallway with a statement made by the department promoting a supportive environment for students of every background. Stickers noting accomplishments by minorities in physics were also put on the walls throughout the hallway. Vinyl lettering was put above the main display at the entrance of the hallway saying "we are all made of stardust".

The project succeeded in making clear the physics department is committed to promoting diversity in physics. Everyone who walks in or out of the physics wing passes by this display we created. With this being so prominent we hope it reminds people we are all the same no matter what background we come from. It also exemplifies the incredible accomplishments of many minorities in physics, possibly providing a role model or support for someone who feels like they do not belong.

The Juniata physics department is committed to promoting physics to everyone who is interested. In the spring we hosted our annual Physics Phun Night where we invite the community in and perform fun demonstrations to the area children to promote physics. We also had some students go to the local library and perform demonstrations in hopes of making physics more appealing to people. This Diversity project reaches out in a different way and aims to promote diversity in physics and support groups who are traditionally underrepresented.

Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Promoted Physics across Cultures

This project has helped draw attention to how valuable diversity is in our physics department. Beside the main display we have a map of the world which shows all of places our students are from. The words "we are all made of stardust" draws attention to the fact that everyone there is doing the same thing even if they come from a different background.

The posters of astronauts and their accomplishments provides role models of minorities in physics. With more role models of underrepresented groups diversity is promoted. The silhouettes are exemplifying the overall theme that we are all made of stardust. You cannot tell what the background of the person is, all you know is they seek to have great accomplishments like the role models on the posters next to them. Personally, I have been asked about the new decorations in the wing by 9 different people and been told of conversations that started because of it. These discussions, from members beyond the physics department, demonstrate the impact the project is having on the Juniata communities and across different disciplines.

The assessment plan was largely based on word of mouth due to the nature of the project. I have noticed an increase in the amount of tours that walk through the hallway now that it looks more welcoming. When these tours go by the first thing in the wing they see is the diversity display we have created. My personal experiences with other students coming to me with questions about it and hearing about the

discussions about it that have happened across campus have me convinced this project has had a considerable impact on our campus community.

Impact Assessment: How the Project/Activity/Event Influenced your Chapter

There was significant participation from the students in the department, with 15 of the 55 students helping in some way. I have been told by several women in the department that they really appreciate the posters of minorities in physics because it provides more role models to look up to.

The project has also sparked many constructive conversations that I believe have led to a greater understanding about the problem with the lack of diversity in physics.

This project, along with other activities within the department, have served to strengthen the sense of community among the students. I think the most valuable thing this project has provided the department is the discussion about the lack of minorities in physics. Before the project many people seemed to not notice, or at least not acknowledge this problem, but this project has brought the issue to literally the front of the department. This has allowed for discussions on the topic to be much easier to access and from this be much more productive.

Key Metrics and Reflection

The Future Faces of Physics Award is designed to promote projects that cross cultures. What cultures did your project attempt to bring together? (Please be as specific as possible.)	This project promoted diversity in physics and specifically support minorities in physics.
How many attendees/participants were directly impacted by your project? Please describe them (for example “50 third grade students” or “10 high school volunteers”).	No specific number,. Those who walk into and out of the physics department.
How many students from your SPS chapter were involved in the activity, and in what capacity?	15 students in total. 7 are in the silhouettes and the remaining helped with either input on design, writing, or construction.
Was the amount of money you received from SPS sufficient to carry out the activities outlined in your proposal? Could you have used additional funding? If yes, how much would you have liked? How would the additional funding have augmented your activity?	The \$500 was not enough to cover the total. We could have used an additional \$300 to cover the expenses and purchase more posters, silhouettes, and stickers.
Do you anticipate repeating this project/activity/event in the future, or having a follow-up project/activity/event? If yes, please describe.	The follow up will be continuing to give the department wing a facelift with this theme.
What new relationships did you build through this project?	Relationships with administration were strengthened during this project
If you were to do your project again, what would you do differently?	Have more artwork promoting diversity involved.

Press Coverage (if applicable)

If your project received press coverage, please include references or URLs to the coverage. When possible, attach copies of articles to this report.

Activity Photos

This picture is an example of one of the silhouettes put in the hallway. On the left are some of the stickers promoting diversity.



This is a picture of a silhouette of a student (made of stardust) from the beginning of the physics hallway. On the left is the start of the posters of the astronauts from underrepresented groups in physics.





This is the main display at the front of the physics hallway. Shown are the posters of astronauts from underrepresented groups in physics, silhouettes of physics students, artwork depicting the main theme that we are all made out of stardust, and the department's statement committing itself to inclusion.



If you have any questions, please contact the SPS National Office Staff
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