TEAM-UP Task Force

Represented by Tabbetha Dobbins, Rowan University, Dept. of Physics & Astronomy

@AIP_TEAMUP

https://www.aip.org/diversity-initiatives/team-up-task-force
Task Force to Elevate the African American Representation in Undergraduate Physics & Astronomy
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For every 100 physics bachelor’s degrees awarded at 742 physics departments in 2016, only FOUR went to African Americans... and we want to understand why.

Our Mission
To examine and assess the reasons for the persistent underrepresentation of African Americans in physics and astronomy at the bachelor’s level.

Task Force Activities
• Learn from prior research and existing programs
• Survey and interview African American students who have persisted or left the major
• Conduct Site Visits to “high-producing” physics and astronomy programs
• Engage partner departments for feedback on Task Force recommendations prior to release of report
• Produce a detailed, printed Task Force Report and disseminate it widely
TEAM-UP Task Force Members

- Mary James
- “Bo” Hammer
- Arlene Knowles
- Brian Beckford
- Ed Bertschinger
- Tabbetha Dobbins
- Sharon Fries-Britt
- Jim Gates
- Jedidah Isler
- Mia Ong
- Arlisa Richardson
- Quinton Williams

8 Physics & Astronomy Faculty Members
- 1 Community College
- 2 R2 (HBCU & PUI)
- 1 Liberal Arts
- 4 R1
- 1 Higher Education
- 1 Social and Cultural STEM Studies

https://www.aip.org/diversity-initiatives/team-up-task-force/members
Activities and Timeline

May to August 2018
- Survey
- 230+ students

Fall 2018
- Dept. Survey
- 40 Depts.

Fall 2018 and Spring 2019
- Site Visits
- 8 Depts.

Fall 2019
- Prelim. Report
- 20 Depts.

Dec. 2019 Spring 2020
- Report
- Public

Student and Public Engagement
- Student Interviews
- Site Visit Protocols and Feedback to Depts.
- Literature Review
Student and Public Engagement Campaigns

- #TEAMUPTalks Twitter Chats
  - (began on May 17th 2018) Twitter Interviews with TEAM-UP members and other community stakeholders.
  - Find at twitter.com/AIP_TEAMUP/moments

- Black History Month
- Women’s History Month
- Followed by physics faculty, students, and organizations concerned with equity in Physics & Astronomy (and other STEM disciplines)

AIP TEAM-UP Diversity Task Force
@AIP_TEAMUP Follows you
Task Force to Elevate the Representation of African Americans in Undergraduate Physics & Astronomy looking at persistent underrepresentation of these students
Joined April 2018
Tweet to Message

29 Followers you know

Jedidah Isler
Arlene Knowles
Tabbetha Dobbins
Surveys, Interviews, & Institutional Data

• Students took an online survey that covered topics such as classroom and lab experiences, civic engagement, faculty interactions, hours working/other responsibilities, support systems, self efficacy.

• Student focus group interviews took place in 1 hour 15 minute windows at the 2018 NSBP Conference. Data were recorded, transcribed, and digitized.

• Departmental Surveys probed infrastructure in support of physics majors (e.g., dedicated SPS spaces)
Site Visits

• Visited 5 institutions (so far) for a full day. Will visit 3 additional institutions this Spring.

• Protocol:
  • Chair
  • Undergraduate Studies Director
  • Special Programs (e.g. grant funded or other institutional program that enhances undergraduate student experience)
  • Undergraduate Students
  • Administration (Provosts, Deans)
  • Wrap Up
  • Follow Up Report* (Feedback)

• Case Studies: Three or Four Site Visit institutions will be described as case studies in the final TEAM-UP report
Literature Review

• First Draft of Literature Review has been submitted to the TEAM-UP members

• Articles were catalogued by whether they addressed themes which emerged from Interviews and Surveys:
  • Finances/Lack of Resources
  • Academic Capital
  • Curriculum
  • Sense of Belonging
  • Imposter Syndrome
  • Departmental Culture
  • Mental Health Motivation
  • Other Commitments
  • Other: ______________

Simone Hyater-Adams
Mia Ong
Tabbetha Dobbins
Arlisa Richardson

American Institute of Physics
Looking Forward

- Develop Evidence Based Recommendations
- Solicit Feedback from Partner Schools
- Final Report
THANK YOU

@AIP_TEAMUP
www.aip.org/teamup

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@AIPStatistics (and Pat Mulvey and Laura Merner)

Simone Hyater-Adams (Univ. of Colorado)

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