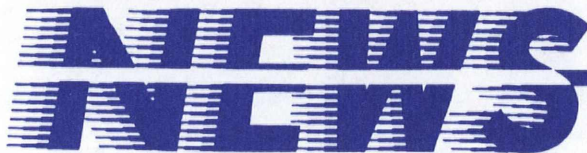


National Science Foundation



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NSF FUNDS FIVE NEW ALLIANCES FOR MINORITY PARTICIPATION

In a continuing effort to increase the number of minority students receiving bachelor's degrees in science, engineering and mathematics, the National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded five new grants in its Alliances for Minority Participation (AMP) Program.

The lead universities for the five-year cooperative agreements are: the University of South Carolina; the City College of New York; North Carolina A&T State University; Florida A&M University; and the University of Texas at El Paso. These institutions have formed coalitions with other universities, community colleges, national laboratories, government agencies and private companies which collectively seek to enhance the participation of minorities in undergraduate science, engineering and mathematics (SEM).

According to NSF Director Walter Massey, the many organizations participating in the AMP program help "to open the worlds of science and technology to our minority citizens, and thereby ensure the future prosperity, security, and well-being of all of our nation's people."

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Through the far-reaching networks coordinated by the lead universities, the AMP projects are expected to result in direct improvement of undergraduate instruction, with provisions for evaluating results. Plans have been laid to ensure continued progress toward the goals beyond the period of NSF support.

These newest awards bring the total number of AMP projects supported by NSF to eleven. The lead institutions for the other six alliances are: Arizona State University, Jackson State University, Texas A&M University, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, the University of California at Irvine, and the University of Puerto Rico. Each AMP project receives up to one million dollars per year for up to five years from NSF.

Luther S. Williams, Assistant Director for Education and Human Resources, called the program "a comprehensive approach to addressing the low number of minority students completing baccalaureate degree programs in SEM." Williams pointed out that the eleven alliances expect to double their current production of SEM bachelor's degrees among minority students from 8,538 per year to 16,815 per year by the end of the award period.

Academic members of the five alliances are as follows:

South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP)

University of South Carolina (lead)
Clemson University
Benedict College
South Carolina State University
Voorhees College
Claflin College
Midlands Technical College

North Carolina A&T State University Alliance for Minority Participation (NCA&T AMP)

North Carolina A&T State University (lead)
The University of Michigan
The University of Washington
The University of Texas at Austin
Stanford University
Southern University
Prairie View A&M University

Florida A&M University Alliance (FL/GA AMP)

Florida A&M University (lead)
Albany State College
Bethune-Cookman Colleges
Florida International Universities
Florida State University
University of Central Florida
University of South Florida
University of Florida
Clark-Atlanta University

University of Texas System Alliance for Minority Participation (U.T. System AMP)

-- led by University of Texas at El Paso, includes all nine Texas System universities plus six community colleges.

New York City Alliance -- includes twelve two-year and four-year colleges within City College of New York (CUNY) system.

Each AMP project is designed to improve undergraduate instruction, develop an infrastructure and management plan to ensure coordination of activities during and beyond the period of NSF support; and develop specific evaluation plans for assessing both qualitative and quantitative results of project activities.

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The National Science Foundation is an independent agency of the federal government established in 1950 to promote and advance scientific progress in the United States. NSF accomplishes its mission primarily by competitively awarding grants to educational institutions for research and education in the sciences, mathematics, and engineering.

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