



Task Force to Elevate the Representation of African Americans in Undergraduate Physics & Astronomy (TEAM-UP)

TEAM-UP Members

Mary B. James, Task Force Chair
Reed College

Brian Beckford
University of Michigan

Edmund Bertschinger
MIT

Tabbetha A. Dobbins
Rowan University

Sharon Fries-Britt
University of Maryland, College Park

Sylvester James Gates, Jr.
Brown University

Jedidah Isler
Vanderbilt University

Mia Ong
TERC

Arlisa Richardson
Chandler-Gilbert Community College

Quinton Williams
Howard University

Member Societies

Acoustical Society of America

American Association of
Physicists In Medicine

American Association of
Physics Teachers

American Astronomical Society

American Crystallographic
Association

American Meteorological Society

American Physical Society

AVS Science and Technology
of Materials, Interfaces, and
Processing

OSA - The Optical Society

The Society of Rheology

Other Member Organizations

Sigma Pi Sigma Physics
Honor Society

Society of Physics Students

Corporate Associates

April 2018

Dear Colleagues,

The American Institute of Physics has commissioned a Task Force to Elevate the representation of African Americans in Undergraduate Physics and astronomy (TEAM-UP) to investigate the persistent underrepresentation of African Americans in physics and astronomy, and develop recommendations toward increasing the number of African Americans students earning physics and astronomy bachelor's degrees.

The first step in TEAM-UP's multi-pronged approach to this challenge is to survey African American undergraduates contemplating or completing a major in physics and related fields about their experiences as physics students. We seek to understand the factors that either impede or propel their successful completion of a physics degree program.

We would like the survey to reach as many African American undergraduate physics and astronomy students as possible; we need your help to reach them. We request that you forward our survey link to African American students in your membership database and those who are in contact with African American students.

Survey Link: bit.ly/teamupsurvey

Summary of how you can help:

- Forward the student letter with the survey link to appropriate student members and encourage them to fill it out immediately (before the semester ends)
- Forward the survey to faculty and administrators in contact with African American students and ask them to forward the letter and link to appropriate students
- Let us know (teamup@aip.org) how you distributed the link

Who should take the survey?

- Any African American undergraduate student majoring in physics or astronomy
- Any African American undergraduate student who formerly majored or intended to major in physics or astronomy and transferred to another major.

TEAM-UP will produce a report on its findings from this survey, faculty and student interviews, and institutional site visits. The report will also include evidence-based recommendations for bringing the percentage of African American physics and astronomy majors up to parity with their overall bachelor degree completion rate across all majors (9.5%).



Task Force to Elevate the Representation of African Americans in Undergraduate Physics & Astronomy (TEAM-UP)

TEAM-UP Members

Mary B. James, Task Force Chair
Reed College

Brian Beckford
University of Michigan

Edmund Bertschinger
MIT

Tabbatha A. Dobbins
Rowan University

Sharon Fries-Britt
University of Maryland, College Park

Sylvester James Gates, Jr.
Brown University

Jedidah Isler
Vanderbilt University

Mia Ong
TERC

Arlisa Richardson
Chandler-Gilbert Community College

Quinton Williams
Howard University

To learn more about this effort, please visit www.aip.org/TEAMUP or contact Arlene Modeste Knowles, TEAMUP Project Manager, at teamup@aip.org, 301-209-3164.

Thank you in advance for helping us in this important work to increase the number of African Americans in physics and astronomy.

Sincerely,

Mary James,
Chair, AIP TEAM-UP Task Force
Dean for Institutional Diversity &
AA. Knowlton Professor of Physics, Reed College

Member Societies

Acoustical Society of America

American Association of
Physicists In Medicine

American Association of
Physics Teachers

American Astronomical Society

American Crystallographic
Association

American Meteorological Society

American Physical Society

AVS Science and Technology
of Materials, Interfaces, and
Processing

OSA - The Optical Society

The Society of Rheology

Other Member Organizations

Sigma Pi Sigma Physics
Honor Society

Society of Physics Students

Corporate Associates