



# SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

## Future Faces of Physics Award Proposal

Project Proposal Title	MINORITY GROUPS IN STEM
Name of School	Ithaca College
SPS Chapter Number	3183
Total Amount Requested	370\$

### Abstract

The abstract should be **no more than 50 words**. The abstract should be a standalone description of the proposed project/activity/event, appropriate for posting on the SPS website or publishing in *The SPS Observer*. The abstract should be in paragraph form and should include the school name, a brief description of the proposed project, and a brief statement about the motivation for the project.

The Ithaca College SPS chapter has decided to organize a panel in collaboration with other recognized organizations of Ithaca College including Engineering Club, Chemistry Club, Environmental Club, Math Club and Biology Club to showcase both the importance of diversity in STEM fields, and the different experiences that those scientists had while being a part of minority groups. This event will take place in a large classroom in our physics department, with seating appropriate for small groups' discussions on the Ithaca College campus where all faculty, students, and visitors are welcome to attend. The guests of this panel are still to be confirmed but there will be scientists that either work in industry or academia that represent minority groups, but most importantly students of Ithaca College that are part of minorities groups. The motivation of this event is to connect students from minority groups and showcase the importance that their different backgrounds have in their fields. In addition, we are trying to raise awareness about the important of creating a diverse inclusive environment for all people in any workplace. There will be no entrance fee to make the event accessible to everyone and refreshments will be provided during the event.



## Proposal Statement

The entire Proposal Statement should be no more than 2 pages, and organized as follows.

### **Overview of Proposed Project/Activity/Event**

The Overview should be a more detailed description of the proposed project/activity/event than the abstract.

This section should include:

- Brief description – What will the project look like?
- Goals of the project – What will the project accomplish?
- Intended audience – Who is the target audience and how many people will be impacted?
- Background and motivation – What is the context and motivation for the project? This might include a discussion of how the projects builds on a previous project carried out by the chapter, where the idea came from, or why the chapter is well-positioned to carry out this project.

The event will consist of a panel with guests that represent minority groups in their STEM careers. It will be in collaboration with other clubs that have to do with STEM such as Engineering Club, Chemistry Club, Environmental Club, Biology Club, and Math Club. However, the Ithaca College SPS chapter will be the main organizer of this event. It will be held in a large classroom designed for small groups' interactions that can accommodate up to 100 people of Ithaca College in the beginning of spring semester, all students, faculty, and visitors will be invited and are welcome to join the panel. The event will start with a small presentation from a speaker (scientist from a minority group). The panel will work by starting out with a great set of questions that will initiate discussions to be made prior to the event and will be asked to our guests with the goal to understand how their identity played a part in their experience to make it to the current career positions that they hold. The panel will also reflect on how they inspired other people like them to strive for their goals while being apart of minority group. There will be a collaboration with the Women and Gender Studies department of Ithaca College for further development on an excellent set of questions. However, the panel will also be open for questions to all attendants of the event.

The goal of this project is to showcase the importance and the power of including people with different backgrounds has on an industry, a research team, academia, and in all STEM fields. Also, Ithaca College is a liberal school with a Physics department that consists of 40% women students, which is an astounding achievement through the last years and is a great thing to showcase. Also, we want to ensure that all students that are part of minority groups are aware of the people out there that are like them. In addition, we want to make sure that they feel included in any field they are part of so that they can be successful no matter what path they choose. Lastly, we want to raise awareness for all the people who are not part of minorities group about the different experiences that people of minorities groups go through, and be able to reflect on their own experience.

The intended audience of our event are students, faculty, and visitors that are either in STEM fields, and or not part of minorities groups, as well as, people who are interested in creating an inclusive environment in STEM careers.

The president of our Ithaca College SPS Chapter, as well as, the vice president is a Woman in STEM. In addition, the entire Physics department of Ithaca College has a ratio of 2:3 for women to men and we want to

showcase the inclusion that our department has on a greater scale. Inclusion and diversity in STEM fields has been a massive issue for many years, and it still is. Although, improvements are being made on a daily basis, there is still work to do. We, the new generation, need to raise awareness for this cause. It is important for all of us, either part of a minority group or not, to keep the efforts for inclusion going and to not stop until a change is made.

## How Proposed Activity Promotes Physics Across Cultures

This section should be a detailed description of how the project will meet the stated goal of the award: to promote physics across cultures. The text should explain why the project is appropriate for a Future Faces of Physics Award, and how it will attempt to meet a need in the community, strengthen a relationship, or fill a void.

This section should explain to reviewers WHY the proposed project is worthwhile and WHY it should be funded by a Future Faces of Physics Award.

Our project's main goal is exactly the same as the one of the Future Faces in Physics Award, which is to promote physics across cultures. In detail, we are raising awareness about the importance of diversity, different cultures, and backgrounds in STEM, which includes physics. We wanted to expand this to more than just in the physics department, because exclusion of different culture background is an issue that needs to be addressed in all STEM fields, especially in physics more than in others. Our guests will expand on how their different cultural background is being used as an advantage in their current position, as well as, how their scientific knowledge can be transferred and used back in their culture. It is important to acknowledge the differences on how science and physics is being taught in different places all around the world, in different cultures, and how, all these different backgrounds can come together to share a passion for physics, and science in general .

This proposed project by the Ithaca College SPS Chapter is directly related to the importance of how physics is translated between different cultures through people and their lifetime experiences and should be funded by the Future Faces of Physics Award. We want to ensure that the future faces in physics includes people from all cultures and backgrounds that have a passion for science and change. In addition, we want to showcase how big of an advantage it is to have a unique personal background and how you can use that in your career as a scientist. This event can motivate and inspire someone to continue promoting physics across cultures for the rest of their career. In addition, it may inspire an attendee to raise awareness about the current situation in their own field and future career. Each person represents a different cultural background and thus, any scientific interaction that a person has in their everyday life is a promotion of physics and other sciences between different cultures.

## Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project/Activity/Event

This section should detail the plan for carrying out the project, in bullet or paragraph form. Include, at minimum:

- Personnel - Who will be in charge of planning the event and how will progress be monitored?
- Marketing - How the project will be marketed to the target audience to ensure satisfactory participation?
- SPS member participation - How many SPS members or volunteers are likely to participate and in what capacity? Will volunteers be recruited from other groups as well?
- Expertise - Are there SPS members or others with special expertise that will help to ensure success?

This section should tell reviewers HOW the proposed activity will come to fruition. Please include adequate details so that reviewers see evidence of thoughtful planning.

The event will be organized by the Ithaca College SPS Chapter Electoral Board, with the help from the members of the Society of Physics students as well. It will be a collaboration with other clubs of Ithaca College related to STEM such as: Chemistry Club, Math Club, Biology Club, and Environmental Club. These clubs will help in the advertising process of the event, as well as, finalize the speakers who will be invited to participate in the panel.

The project will be marketed through all the other clubs that we are collaborating with, as all their members and departments will be invited to our event. In addition, we will ensure that all departments are aware of this event and invite all faculty members of STEM fields. We will have posters printed advertising the event across campus and actively talking to people to make sure everyone who may be interested will be aware. Also, there will be a Facebook event tracking attendance which will include details of the event, this is where many students of IC will be invited to.

All 40 SPS members of our chapter are expected to participate. However, we are planning and expecting an amount of about 100+ students and faculty members participating in this event! The eboard members of the other clubs we are collaborating with will be volunteers in the organization of this event. We are expecting about 10 volunteers to be part of the organization of this event. The eboard of the SPS Chapter of Ithaca College will be in charge of monitoring all the progress of the event in detail and being the facilitator of communication between the other clubs, the physics department, and any other department involved. Detailed reports of the progress of the event will be kept of reference at the end of every week during our weekly officers meeting.

Our chapter Advisor, Michael Bodhi Rogers, will help us with the organization of the event. Also, experts from the Women and Gender Studies will help in the creation of various questions to form a great discussion between our guests and attendants. In addition, Ithaca College Services will be in charge of any technical issues that may occur in the Physics department's room used, as well as, ensuring that the event will run as planned.

## Project/Activity/Event Timeline

This section should detail the timeline for carrying out the project. Work backwards from the project date and include key milestones and the dates by which important details needed to be finalized in order to complete the project on time.

This section should tell reviewers WHEN the planning efforts and proposed activity will happen.

The exact date of the event is yet to be confirmed from Ithaca College. However, the anticipated date is January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The booking of the location (big interactive classroom in the Physics Department) will be done 1 month in advance from the event date, and the catering will be taken care of a week prior to the event. The final guests list will be confirmed by the end of December 2018 and the inquiries to potential guests will start November 1<sup>st</sup>. The final schedule that the event will follow will be finalized by the end of December. Current things that will be done first include communication and finalization of all volunteers for the event from other clubs of Ithaca College, such as Engineering Club, Chemistry Club, Biology Club, Math Club and Environmental Club. The SPS Chapter at Ithaca College will be in charge of the finalization of all departments or faculty members that would like to participate in the organization of this panel. This will include the Physics department and the Women in Gender studies department, which are both to be done by the end of November.

## Activity Evaluation Plan

The Activity Evaluation Plan should be no more than 300 words. This section should explain how the chapter will evaluate the success of the activity in meeting the goal of the award—promoting physics across cultures. This may be as simple as keeping accurate records or administering a short survey of participants.

Some key metrics of success might be:

- Attendance or participation numbers
- Survey results from participants
- Feedback from key participants

This section should tell reviewers HOW the chapter will evaluate whether the proposed activity promoted physics across cultures.

The Society of Physics Students of Ithaca College will evaluate the success of the event by reflecting on how we successfully met the main goal of promoting physics across cultures through several different ways. Firstly, if we meet the expected attendance number of approximately 100 people, it will be evaluated by asking people if they were interested in the promotion of physics and other sciences across different cultures and backgrounds. We will also ask attendants to reflect on how science knowledge is being transferred and translated among different people with different cultures. We will give a very brief survey sheet at the end of the discussions to see whether people actually found the panel useful, worthwhile, and educational to be able to better understand the outcomes that the participants had from this event. Also, this can be determined through the participation of the attendants during the discussion, as there will be an ample amount of time for questions and further discussion. In the survey sheet that will be given at this end, we will also ask for any feedback that could be taken into consideration for future planning of events like this.

## Budget Justification

The Budget Justification section should be no more than 300 words. This section should justify the expenses outlined in the Budget Proposal. For example, if the funding will be used to purchase volunteer t-shirts, explain why volunteer t-shirts would be useful and how they would help meet the goals of the project. (The actual budget must be submitted as a separate file, created in conjunction with the “Future Faces of Physics Award Proposal Budget Template.”)

Include information about any money or supplies coming from other sources that will leverage the funding requested from SPS. Include in-kind funding and support (borrowed equipment, etc.) that will be used in carrying out the project.

The Future Faces of Physics Award Proposal Budget should tell reviewers WHAT the funds will be used to purchase. This section should explain to reviewers HOW the items listed in the budget will help accomplish the goals of the project and of the Future Faces of Physics Award more generally.

The poster money will be put towards printing posters and advertisements. This will supplement the numerous online methods of marketing we will be applying. This helps us accomplish our goals by driving up attendance. Our program is about the people after all.

Because we are coordinating this event using Ithaca College facilities, we are required to use their contracted catering company, Sodexo, for all catering needs. Their prices are standardized. We are expecting about 100 attendees and I used Sodexo’s numbers to provide an accurate quote of the cost for the refreshments and snacks that we would like to provide (Cookies, Veggie Plates, Coffee, Tea). This is yet another way to encourage students to make time in their busy schedules and spend it with us at this meaningful event.