

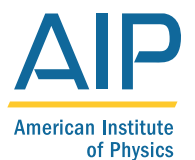
phys
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2019 Physics Congress

Making Waves &
Breaking Boundaries

November 14 - 16, 2019
Downtown Providence, RI
sigmapisigma.org/congress/2019

*Supporting Students,
Creating Impact*





PhysCon generates an enormous impact in the lives of college students studying physics and astronomy. Students present original research, attend workshops, connect with preeminent scholars and practitioners, and conduct site visits to national labs. With over 1300 attendees expected in 2019. PhysCon is not only the largest gathering of undergraduates studying physics and astronomy in the world – it is the premiere event where they are the focal point.

Enclosed are highlights from PhysCon 2016. With your help, we can create even more impact through PhysCon 2019.



2016 Overall Impact

72

Full Travel Awards to Underrepresented Minority Students

PhysCon celebrates and values diversity, and it is essential that diverse voices are present and heard at PhysCon to be successful. Through a grant from the National Science Foundation to the American Institute of Physics and the American Physical Society, **72 full travel awards** (registration, travel and lodging) were provided to students attending minority-serving institutions (MSIs) and historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to attend PhysCon 2016 and present their research. **This funding helped to ensure that PhysCon 2016 was the most diverse and inclusive of traditionally underrepresented groups in the event's history.**

34%

Female attendees

PhysCon believes that more should be done to encourage gender parity in STEM. In 2016, **34% of PhysCon's attendees were female**, representing above the national average of women in the physical sciences.

186

Colleges & Universities

PhysCon 2016 had representation from **more than 186 colleges and universities**, representing 45 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, Canada, Hungary and Mexico.

349

Poster Presentations

There were **349 poster presentations** at PhysCon 2016. Students presented original research and fielded questions from colleagues and mentors.





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By far the most valuable thing I took from PhysCon is the network of connections I built there. I am touched by the amount of support I received at PhysCon – support both for my project and for my future as a physicist.

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– Kristine Romich,
City College of Chicago

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During the weeks leading up to PhysCon, I was contemplating if physics was the right path for me. I was trying to find what my passion was, but I just couldn't find a branch of physics that really intrigued me. It wasn't until I attended Patrick Brady's seminar at PhysCon that I realized how fascinating astrophysics was to me. Ever since I was young, I was always interested in space. I had always been mesmerized by the endless vacuum that our planet lies within, however the idea of merging both my passion for physics and astronomy had never crossed my mind. After listening to Professor Brady's lecture on the scientific breakthrough of gravitational waves, I finally understood where my future as a physicist was headed.

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– Letrell Harris,
Hampton University

