



SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS

An organization of the American Institute of Physics

Future Faces of Physics Award Proposal

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| Project Proposal Title | Advocating for Traditionally Underrepresented Groups in Physics |
| Name of School | University of Central Florida |
| SPS Chapter Number | SPS 1076 |
| Total Amount Requested | \$500 |

Abstract

SPS-UCF will host a guest speaker to speak about their experience as a minority in Physics. Events like this have been of great success for our chapter, and we hope to continue fostering a community of education, diversity, inclusion, acceptance at our University.

Proposal Statement

Overview of Proposed Project/Activity/Event

Women are historically underrepresented in STEM and in physics specifically. In 2017, women earned 21% of physics bachelors degrees and the percentage of women earning these degrees has not made any significant increases. At the proposed event, a guest speaker will discuss their experience as a woman in STEM, their journey through academia, and ways that we can continue to improve the environment we are creating at UCF. We hope to educate attendees on the adversities that women and other minorities face in the field.

The target audience of this event is undergraduate, graduate, post-doctoral, and faculty in the department. We also hope to collaborate with our university's college of optics and photonics, along with members of other RSO's that are minority focused. Specifically, we are reaching out to collaborate with the Women in Physics Society, Society of Women Engineers, and the Society for the Advancement of Minorities in STEM. Our university has previously worked with the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez and we hope to invite them to attend this event virtually. We anticipate 40-60 people will attend in person and on zoom.

We anticipate this event to be a talk by our guest speaker followed by a questions and answers event. This event will take place in the conference room of our physics building, where we have ample accommodations for virtual guest speakers. We also plan to have a zoom component for this event, so we are able to accommodate anyone who wants to attend this event.

Our SPS chapter is well-equipped to host this event, previously we held a successful panel around the naming of the James Webb Space Telescope. We received positive feedback from students in our department around this event, and we hope to continue the tradition of elevating diverse and minority voices in our department. We also have resources available from our university's Office of Diversity and Inclusion which will allow our event to be as successful as possible. Our faculty advisors, Dr. Costas Efthimou and Dr. Adrienne Dove, both have experience in hosting events in our department and will be able to help us with any problems or technical issues that may occur.

How Proposed Activity Promotes Physics Across Cultures

As mentioned previously, women are historically underrepresented in STEM and in physics. The Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP) and the APS Bridge Program have shown that supporting underrepresented minorities through mentorship is just one way of increasing representation in the field. Specifically, one of the guest speakers we hope to have at this event is disabled. Disabilities in STEM is a subject not frequently addressed. Research has shown that 10% of students entering post secondary education have self-identified as disabled. With this speaker, we hope to make the path in physics and STEM more accessible for future generations. Other potential speakers on our list have a background of advocating for traditionally excluded populations. Through the Future Faces of Physics Award, we will be able to open up a dialogue in our physics department about underrepresentation in stem. We hope to inform and educate our peers about the importance of accessibility and inclusion in STEM.

Plan for Carrying Out Proposed Project/Activity/Event

This project will be lead by UCF-SPS's treasurer, Madisyn Brooks, with help from the rest of the officer board and volunteering members of the society. Madisyn will take the lead on contacting guest speakers and making appropriate room reservations. This event will also be held with collaboration from our SPS faculty advisors, and the physics department chair as necessary.

This event will be marketed via email to the undergraduates, graduates, post-doctoral students, and faculty in our department. We also will post on our social media, which has shown great success in advertising for our previous events. We will collaborate with the CREOL department and other RSOs at our university, like the Women in Physics Society, Society of Women Engineers, and the Society for the Advancement of Minorities in STEM. We also have established relations with the Women in Physics Society at the University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez. We will ask these collaborators to advertise this event through their appropriate channels. Our SPS chapter will be included in this event either as a volunteer or attendee. Many of our SPS officers were involved in previous FFOP projects and will be able to facilitate this event.

Before the event, we will ask our guest speaker for any accommodations necessary and will keep this in mind within the planning of the event. We will be providing an exit survey to our attendees to gauge the successfulness of the event, and to provide feedback on other topics they would like to see more of in the future. We hope to use this information to continue fostering an inclusive environment within our chapter, department, and university.

Project/Activity/Event Timeline

November 2022 - February 2023: Connect with other groups on campus and gain support for the event

January 2023 - February 2023: Confirm guest speaker

Candidates: Dr. Nicole Herbots, Dr. Adrienne Traxler, Dr. Jennifer Blue

February 2023 - April 2023: Advertise the event, collect attendee information

April 2023 - May 2023: Host guest speaker event, review attendee feedback, submit Final Report to SPS National

Activity Evaluation Plan

We intend to provide an exit survey to our attendees to assess the successfulness of our event. This survey will evaluate the execution of the event, knowledge earned, and future topics they would be interested in. On this form, we will ask for the attendees' major and academic position, and we will be able to determine the demographic reached by our event. Our chapter will use this information for planning of future events. We also will ask our guest speaker for feedback and advice for future events. This exit survey will also act as an attendance form, so we will be able to gauge the amount of people reached.

Budget Justification

We are requesting funding of \$500 for this event. The FFOP will be the only funding source for this event. The budget will be used in part as an honorarium for our guest speaker. It is important to compensate our guest speaker for their time and commitment to this event. The other portion of the budget will be used to provide refreshments and snacks to our attendees. Previous events and meetings through our chapter have shown that the inclusion of snacks and refreshments improves attendance.