



# 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	Redefining Physics: Adding Women & Minorities to the Equation
Name of School	Mount Holyoke College
SPS Chapter Number	4555
Total Amount Requested	\$240.00

### Abstract

As students of an all-women's institution, Mount Holyoke College physics majors are aware of the lack of diversity in physics. To combat this issue, we will run a photo-campaign displaying reasons why our majors study physics. We will also have a poster event highlighting the accomplishments of minorities in physics.

# Proposal Statement

## Overview of Proposed Project/Activity/Event

At the fall student org fair, members of the Mount Holyoke SPS chapter excitedly advertised their club to new students. (Mount Holyoke is an all-women's liberal arts college). Unfortunately, many students expressed great distaste for physics ranging from fear to revulsion. There was even a student who ran away from our table! Our proposed project comes in two parts, and aims to change the perception of physics among women and minority students.

The first part of the project will entail a photo campaign that highlights why physics faculty and majors chose to pursue this field. Specifically, we will take pictures of these students and faculty holding signs which profess how they got interested in physics and what drives them to continue. This part of the project is aimed at students who have yet to declare their major. The goal is to show students that one does not have to be "naturally gifted" in science and math in order to succeed in physics.

The second part of the project will be an event in the spring that highlights the accomplishments of celebrated minorities in physics, showcasing their work and accolades. We imagine a set of posters containing information, video clips, and other interactive displays. The photo campaign will debut at this event as well. SPS members will act as "information ambassadors" during the event, which will be open to the whole college community. Our hope is that our posters and multimedia displays will inspire participants to study physics and show them that women and minorities have an important place in the field.

## How Proposed Activity Promotes Physics Across Cultures

It should not come as a surprise to anyone that women and minorities are woefully underrepresented in physics. One of the reasons for this lack of diversity is the widely held perception of physics as the domain of old white men. This perception prevents us from tapping into the potential of women and minorities who have much to offer to the field.

Our project addresses this (mis)perception directly. Our photo campaign will literally show the "*Diverse Future Faces of Physics*," while our event will highlight the achievements of their predecessors.

## 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:

- SPS board members (Husna Anwar, Pheona Williams, Allie Lau, Ressi Miranda) will oversee the planning and execution of the event.

- The photo campaign will be shared with the campus community at our diversity event and via our website and social media. The diversity event will be advertised a month in advance with posters and announcements to intro physics classes.
- SPS member participation – While the board members will be involved in planning the event, we expect at least twenty other SPS members to help with the execution.
- Our media coordinators have experience with photography and website administration. Our board members have experience organizing and coordinating events of this scale.

## Project/Activity/Event Timeline

December 2<sup>nd</sup>- Start recruiting majors and faculty for the photo campaign.

January 20<sup>th</sup>- Start taking pictures for photo campaign. This work will continue until March 31<sup>st</sup> (the diversity in physics event) at which the photos will be displayed.

February 17<sup>th</sup>- First planning meeting for diversity in physics event

March 1<sup>st</sup>- Start advertising diversity in physics event

March 17<sup>th</sup>-Final planning meeting for the event

March 31<sup>st</sup>-The actual diversity in physics event (this comes right before students chose classes for the next semester and is around the time sophomores declare their major). Our photo campaign will also be debuted at this event.

## Activity Evaluation Plan

We will evaluate our project using attendance and participation numbers. We expect to get twenty people in our photo campaign and we expect at least thirty-five people to attend our event in the spring. We will take careful attendance at this event to see how closely we meet these estimates.

## Budget Justification

Luckily, we will be able to borrow a camera and multimedia projector from our library so the cost of the photo campaign will be minimal. The only purchases needed will be the white board and markers so participants can write down what interested them in physics and why they continue in the field.

We need the fliers to advertise the diversity in physics event. The posters will be professionally printed (like those seen at conferences) and will contain all of the information we are highlighting about minorities in physics. Light refreshments will also attract people to the event.