Finding Gaps and Inequities in Higher Education

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THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

We use the best available data to guide timely, thoughtful decision We solve problems by building on success and learning from failur We embrace forward thinking that fosters innovation.



EDUCATION AND LEARNING

We promote personal and professional growth.
We embrace change and seek continuous improvement.
We learn from each other to succeed together.



TRUTH AND INTEGRITY

We communicate respectfully and honestly while considering othe We perform our jobs with excellence, integrity, and accountability. We hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards.



PARTNERING, COOPERATION, AND OPEN COLLABORATION

We listen and respond to each other and to our communities. We collaborate and act with good intent.

We celebrate successes and acknowledge everyone's contributions.



DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND RESPECT

We respect each other's differences and value everyone's time and talents. We commit to creating an inclusive and accepting working environment. We seek diverse perspectives and ensure that all voices are heard.



SPEAKING OUT

We seek and provide respectful feedback from each other.
We talk through issues and propose solutions to address conflict.
We address situations that are inconsistent with our values.





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"The Society of Physics Students (SPS) welcomes all students with a passion for physics independent of identities including but not limited to race, ethnic origin, religious beliefs, gender presentation, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, family and socio-economic status, or cultural background. Many groups are under-represented in physics and SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma ($\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$) have not always been welcoming to diverse groups. Today all of our events are subject to our Code of Conduct, and SPS and $\Sigma\Pi\Sigma$ are committed to working to correct this exclusion and will continue to update our policies and best practices in pursuit of promoting diversity, inclusion, and equity."

Comments:

"The Society of Physics with a passion for physi but not limited to race, e presentation, gender ide family and socio-econo The inclusion of everyone takes many forms and must be an active process that SPS leaders and members adopt. It is encouraged that an SPS chapters and members reach out to all students who might have an interest in physics. This should includes majors, minors, and those who might have all interest in physics yet. Some students may have limited availability but are still welcome at events. The SPS National Office encourages chapters to announce events and meetings well in advance, through several modes of communication, and make accommodations for anyone that wants to participate. While traditions and commitment to an SPS is important, so too is being inclusive of the wide variety of people within a department. Be kind and caring to all members. We are stronger together and the SPS National Office can help chapters achieve this goal. Please email sps@alp.org for assistance.

(Society of Physics Students, Sigma Pi Sigma)





My role: updating statistics on the APS website on the degrees granted across demographics at colleges and universities in the US

- Demographics for my project consisted mainly of race and gender.
- Visual representation of the data is a good way to encourage discussion and show obvious trends and disparities.





Who is using the data?

- Schools
- Grant proposals
- You and me
- Students and professors

Current Trends in Physics Enrollment

Samina Masood Department of Physical and Applied Sciences University of Houston-Clear Lake

Abstract

We analyze the current trends in higher education and discuss its impact on physics enrollment in US institutions. The pandemic, lockdowns, unemployment, and healthcare problems have led to unique social and economic conditions. These conditions have modified the latest trends in education. COVID-19 has had great impact on the academic culture due to online teaching and learning methods. We identify some of the key factors including economic problems, changes in job market, modifications in family obligations, physical and mental health conditions, and overall insecurity and uncertainty in life. These key factors are causing a shift in educational preferences. A few recommendations are made to get out of the current dilemma. We use all the data collected by the American Physical Society statistics department [1].

Identification of the Problem

Physics has never been a very popular subject and has been almost accepted as a low enrollment discipline. Physics departments are relatively small departments and physics programs are smaller programs and have to be continuously watched and special recruitment tools are used

(Masood, 2022)



Methods used to collect the most recent data and update the website

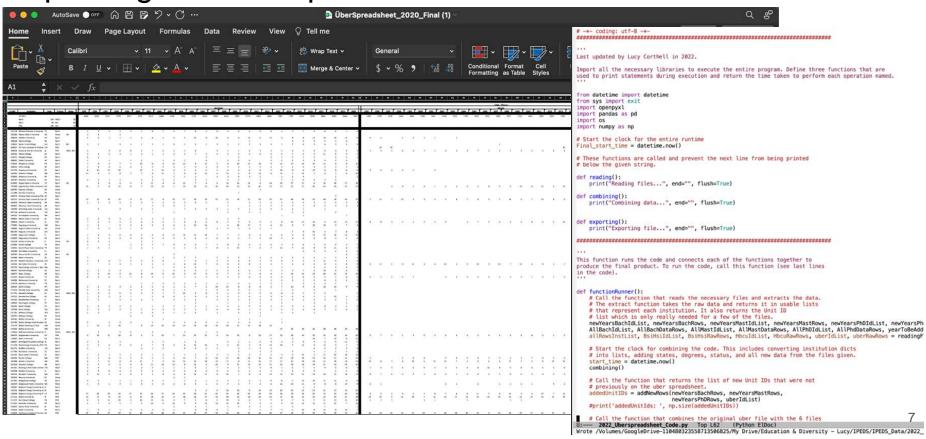
IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System) is a system of interrelated surveys conducted annually by the U.S. Department of **Education's National Center** for Education Statistics (NCES).

 Selected data in IPEDS and put it into excel sheets





Updating the Überspreadsheet with 2020 data

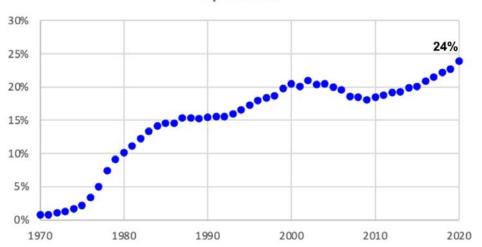






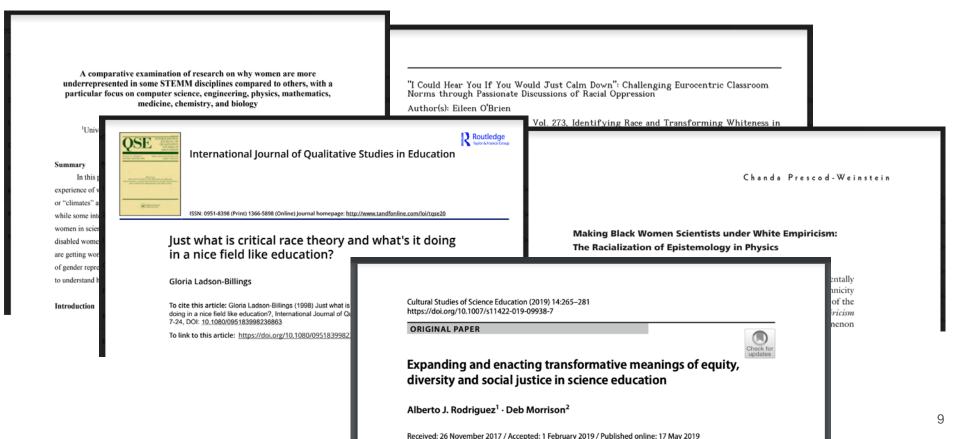
 There continues to be disparities between demographic groups in higher education

Percentage Engineering Bachelor Degrees Earned by Women





Education Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) papers



Call to action



- The first step: check out the website!
- The second step in changing culture and the systemic issues we are facing is acknowledging that there is an issue.
- A third step is letting others know about the information.

Step three continued: letting others know about the information



- Implementing ways of welcoming marginalized groups in Physics and STEM and amplifying and listening to marginalized groups.
 - There are free resources for the physics community such as:



EDI Section from the Effective Practices for Physics Programs (EP3) Guide (American Physical Society, American Association of Physics Teachers et al.).



IDEA: Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity Alliance (APS)



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Questions? Contact me

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Summary slide



Background: APS, SPS, and other STEM organizations value diversity and inclusion.



Methods: making excel sheets and coding in Python to update the website.



Results: There continues to be disparities; the use of EDI papers to fill gaps.



Call to action: Identify disparities, share information, and implement EDI actions.