

Archived Information

American Physical Society

Overview: The APS Director of Education and Outreach works with all units through four APS standing committees: the Committee on Education, the Committee on Careers and Professional Development, the Committee on Minorities, and the Committee on the Status of Women in Physics. The APS/Education web site contains descriptions of programs, committees and links to current innovations in undergraduate education. <http://www.aps.org/educ/>.

- Physics Teacher Education Coalition (PhysTEC) is a program to improve the science preparation of future K-12 teachers. It requires physics and education faculty to work together to provide an education for future teachers that emphasizes interactive engagement and a student-centered approach to learning science. Now in its second year, PhysTEC is active on six Primary Program Institution sites. Corporate funds from the APS Corporate Campaign are being raised to support the new Primary Program Institutions. <http://www.phystec.org>

- The Committee on Minorities (COM) is discussing an initiative to expand existing programs that are aimed at bridging the gap between graduate institutions and students and faculty at minority institutions including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs). Through this initiative, faculty at minority institutions can become familiar with research opportunities at majority institutions and guide their students accordingly. In addition, faculty at majority institutions can build links to minority institutions and recruit more minority students for graduate study and internships.

- Physics on the Road held a conference on February 22-23, 2003 at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. The goal of the Conference is to bring physics faculty and staff together to demonstrate, promote, and disseminate the many approaches to producing traveling physics experiments and exhibits

- High School Physics Teachers' Days are one-day events held in conjunction with the March and April meetings of the APS and also with meetings of some units. They are designed to offer a day of professional development to physics teachers.

- The Committee on the Status of Women in Physics (CSWP) continued its program of site visits to institutions of higher education and national laboratories. It supported receptions at the March and April Meetings and a Survival Skills for Women in Physics workshop at the March Meeting. It also produced and distributed a beautiful careers booklet for middle school girls, Physics in Your Future, which contains over a dozen profiles about today's women in physics (including two from our presidential line).

- The Committee on Careers and Professional Development (CCPD) held a workshop at the March meeting and worked with the AIP in expanding its program to inform university faculty about careers in physics.

- The Committee on Education (COE) developed position papers concerning teacher certification, Advanced Placement, Physics First, and Why Study Physics. It has begun work on an award for outstanding physics departments. COE reviewed and advised the PhysTEC Team and helped write the successful NSDL grant proposal.

- With partial support from the NSF and copyright permission from AAPT, APS has produced a Spanish translation of a popular book of physics experiments for K-12 students, Experimentos con Hilos y Cinta Adhesiva. We are now in the process of distributing 2,500 copies of the book to Spanish-speaking communities in Latin America and to Spanish-serving school districts in the USA.