



SUPPORT THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION ALLIANCES FOR GRADUATE EDUCATION AND THE PROFESSORIAL (AGEP) PROGRAM



BACKGROUND

The AGEP program supports a national goal of increasing the numbers of African American, Hispanic American, Alaska Native, Native American and other Pacific Islanders (collectively “underrepresented minorities”) who complete graduate education and postdoctoral training, with the objective that these individuals enter academic STEM professions.

AGEP focuses on promoting graduate and postdoctoral education. The program also seeks to build a body of knowledge regarding the factors that influence the participation and success of underrepresented racial minorities in STEM graduate and postdoctoral programs.

AGEP projects are divided into the following three categories: 1) Transformation, 2) Knowledge Adoption and Translation, and 3) Broadening Participation Research in STEM Education. These three broad themes each relate directly to the larger goal of cultivating a more diverse set of instructors to educate the next generation of STEM learners. This program has been level funded for at least the last six fiscal cycles.

RECOMMENDATION

Support **\$9 million** for the Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professorial (AGEP) program at the National Science Foundation (NSF).

NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) play a critical role in creating diversity in the professoriate. NSF found that from 2008– 2012, nine of the top 10 baccalaureate-origin institutions of African American science and engineering Ph.Ds are HBCUs.

Diversity in the STEM professoriate is a significant issue. Faculty members from underrepresented minority backgrounds play a key role in attracting and retaining the diverse students who are needed for the STEM workforce. Further, faculty members with diverse viewpoints and experiences provide a rich educational environment for all students and have a central responsibility in preparing pupils for entry into the global marketplace.

AGEP Funding History	
FY 2012	\$8 million
FY 2013	\$8 million*
FY 2014	\$8 million
FY 2015	\$8 million
FY 2016	\$8 million
FY 2017	\$8 million
HBCU Coalition FY 2017 Request	\$9 million

*Reflects across-the-board sequestration cut, pursuant to the Budget Control Act of 2011.