

learned societies. The foundation helped create many successful programs and policy initiatives; examples are the European Young Investigators Program and Exploratory Workshops on emerging areas of research. (Photo is from last year's 40th anniversary celebration.)



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The new incarnation of ESF has shed its policymaking and research-funding activities so as not to compete with the newer Science Europe, whose membership and mandate overlap with ESF's. In the lead-up to the November decision, for example, the Cooperation in Science and Technology program, which funds meetings, training, and other interactions among scientists, peeled off from ESF to become an independent organization.

ESF will now focus on selling services, namely program management, peer review, and evaluation; clients include national funding agencies, corporate social responsibility funds, and not-for-profit entities. As examples, ESF will continue to coordinate MERIL, an inventory of European research infrastructures, and provide management support for the European Commission's flagship graphene initiative (see *PHYSICS TODAY*, December 2013, page 22). The foundation also hosts science advisory boards in nuclear physics, marine sciences, space sciences, radio-astronomy frequencies, and materials.

The new scheme is still subject to a financial "viability test," says ESF chief executive Martin Hynes. The organization's name will also be revisited. TF

Minorities in physics. African Americans and Hispanics accounted for 2.1% and 3.2%, respectively, of US physics faculty members in 2012 but 13% and 17% of the country's population. Two recent reports by the Statistical Research Center of the American Institute of Physics look at physics trends for underrepresented minorities among faculty and recent physics bachelor's recipients.

Across all disciplines in 2009, African Americans made up 6.6% of

faculty and Hispanics 4%. For comparison, Asians—who are not underrepresented in physics—made up 6% of all faculty, and whites 75%.

From 2004 to 2012, the number of African American physics faculty members grew 11% to a total of 190. The number of Hispanic physics faculty members grew 29% to 288. The representation among faculty is similar to that for new doctoral recipients in physics.

In 2012 two-thirds of US physics departments (495 out of 746) had neither African American nor Hispanic faculty members, while 27 departments employed members of both groups.

At the undergraduate level, Hispanics are still underrepresented in the physical sciences, but their numbers are growing fast. From 2002 to 2012, the physical sciences saw a 47% increase in the number of bachelor's degrees awarded; among Hispanics, that rise was 78%. Across all fields in the US over that period, the number of bachelor's degrees awarded grew 38% to more than 1.8 million; among Hispanics that growth was 85%. In 2012, Hispanics earned 342 out of 6177 bachelor's degrees (5.5%) conferred in physics.

For more on these trends, see *African Americans & Hispanics among Physics & Astronomy Faculty* and *Hispanic Participation among Bachelor's in Physical*

Sciences and Engineering. The reports are available at <http://aip.org/statistics/minorities>. TF

Postdocs or permanent jobs? Nearly one-third of the 3450 fresh physics PhDs from the classes of 2011 and 2012 in the US went straight to potentially permanent jobs. While that proportion has stayed steady since 2004, the number of PhDs conferred in physics has been rising. "The market for those with knowledge and skills associated with a physics PhD continues to grow," according to *Physics Doctorates One Year After Degree*, a recent report by the Statistical Research Center of the American Institute of Physics. (See <http://aip.org/statistics/employment>.)

After receiving their degrees, 11% of US citizens and 26% of non-US citizens left the country, mostly for postdoctoral positions. Among those who remained in the US, half of citizens and nearly two-thirds of noncitizens took postdoctoral positions.

In the subfields of nuclear physics and biological physics, more than 70% of new PhDs took postdocs. The percentages were lowest in applied physics and optics and photonics; people in those subfields were more likely to get potentially permanent jobs. TF ■

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