

Opportunity Knocking: Minority Serving Institutions and PSM



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How Often Does “Opportunity” Knock?

- Maybe More Than Once But Not Everyday
- All Institutions & Their Leaders Look for Opportunities All the Time—or SHOULD
- Opportunities for Funding, Students, Faculty, Reputation, Resources
- Our Discussions on PSMs Represent An Enormous & Timely Opportunity



Many Factors Contribute to the PSM Opportunity for MSIs

- An Aging Scientific Workforce
- A Need for More Domestic Workers
- The Emergence of New Fields
- The Rise of Interdisciplinarity & Scientific Work Around Themes
- Increased # of Asynchronous Learners
- Master's Education Constitutes 80% of Graduate Education—And Fastest Growing
- The Rapid Rise of People of Color in the General and Higher Ed Populations



Let's Not Undervalue the “Demography Card”

- 1990--11.9 Million Students; 1999--12.6 Million Students (.7 Million Increase)
- 1990--2.4 Million Minority Students; 1999--3.6 Million Minority Students (1.2 Million Increase)
- 1966--154,000 STEM Students; 2000--395,000 STEM Students, But Smaller % of All Degrees--35% in 1966/31% in 1999



...Or the Gender Card

- Women Are 58 % Of All College Students; 65% of All African American Students!
- Women 50% of all Science Baccalaureate Degrees in 2000 vs. 24.5% in 1966; 55% in Biology; 41% In Physical Sciences; 20% in Engineering
- 2/3 of African American Graduate Students Are Women
- But Women and Minorities Continue to Be Underrepresented in Most STEM Disciplines
- ...Yet the US Cannot Meet Future STEM Workforce Needs w/o More Women and People of Color



A Word About Interdisciplinarity

- Rapidly Expanding STEM Body of Knowledge
- Understanding of Many Scientific Topics and Themes Best Pursued & Understood Through Interconnections Across Disciplines
- Many Rapidly Increasing Careers in STEM Interdisciplinary Fields (e.g., Bioinformatics, Computational Biology, Nanoscience, etc.)
- Increasing Connections of STEM With Social Science & Other Fields (e.g., Bioethics, Science and Society, Entrepreneurship, etc.)
- Many Jobs for Terminal Master's Graduates



What This Means for Us

- We Are The **Best** Institutions in the Country to Address the STEM Diversity Issue/Problem
- We Can Join a Movement at the Beginning!!
- The Traditional Research Universities Have Not Already Dominated the Market—Many Foolishly Shun Master's Education
- Many MSIs Have Had a Long Tradition in Master's Education

What We Must Do to Seize the Moment

- Develop & Implement Plans to Sell the PSM Idea to Institutional Leaders—Focus on Budgetary, Resource, Enrollment and Development/Extramural Issues
- Build Partnerships with Local, Regional and National Employers—And With Each Other!!!
- Build Faculty Support—Address Potential Workload & Reward Issues
- Address the Issue of “Siphoning Off” of Potential Ph.D. Candidates”