



New Jersey Space Grant Consortium Diversity Initiatives for Students

Background

The New Jersey Space Grant Consortium (NJS GC) is NASA's educational arm in New Jersey for higher education, charged with progressing the goals of the national Space Grant program. There is a Space Grant Consortium in every state, plus D.C. and Puerto Rico.

Diversity Objectives

One of the goals of the National Space Grant Program is diversity: Recruit and train U.S. citizens, especially women, underrepresented minorities, and persons with disabilities, for careers in aerospace, science, and technology.

NASA expects NJS GC to make its higher education awards to reflect the diversity statistics of New Jersey higher education enrollments. NJS GC strives to make all of its awards, whether they are for students or faculty, to reflect the diversity of New Jersey.

Currently, students in the higher education system of New Jersey are 14% African American, 14% Hispanic, and less than 1% Native American. We invite college students in New Jersey from diverse backgrounds to contact us and to take advantage of our diversity initiatives.

Diversity Programs for Students

NJS GC contributes to the goals and objectives of the National Space Grant program with a variety of projects and programs. Our programs with diversity components include:

- **Undergraduate Research Fellowships**
Students participate in summer or academic year research, guided by research faculty at NJS GC affiliate institutions.
- **Graduate Research Fellowships**
Fellowships for graduate students conducting research in STEM and aerospace fields. Fellowship amount can be used to pay tuition or as a stipend.
- **NASA Academy and NASA Center Placement**
Opportunity for undergraduate or graduate level research at NASA Academy or at a NASA research center.
- **Minority Graduate Student Development**
Support to N.J. universities for programs to recruit and mentor minority students and encourage them for graduate study. Currently, we collaborate with the RiSE (Research in Science and Engineering) program at Rutgers (<http://rise.rutgers.edu>).
- **Co-Op Program**
Placement of N.J. undergraduate STEM students in co-op aerospace internships at corporations. Most of these internships lead to employment upon graduation.



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Pictured are Charles Bolden, former astronaut and current NASA Administrator, and Stephanie Wilson, astronaut.