

Final Technical Report for DE-SC0005707

Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics

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This funding supported the Northeast Conference for Undergraduate Women in Physics held January 14-16, 2011 in Cambridge, MA. This conference was one of four simultaneous conferences nationwide (the others held at North Carolina State University, Purdue University and the University of Southern California) whose goal is to help undergraduate women continue in physics by providing them with the opportunity to experience a professional conference, information about graduate school and professions in physics, and access to other women in physics of all ages with whom they can share experiences, advice, and ideas. Both men and women attended and benefitted from research talks by faculty, panel discussions about graduate school and careers in physics and related areas, laboratory tours, student research talks and poster presentations, and networking among students and between students and faculty.

Approximately 140 students attended the Northeast conference. Survey results and student testimonials showed satisfaction that the program had achieved its goals. The MIT conference was the fourth in a series of Northeast regional conferences, following three earlier ones at Yale. The national series has grown from a single conference at USC in 2006 with 29 undergraduate attendees to 4 institutions in 2011 with approximately 400 undergraduate attendees and has continued to grow since then.

Research talks were given by Nergis Mavalvala and Jocelyn Monroe of MIT, Margaret Murnane of JILA, Jennifer Ongilvie of the University of Michigan, and Karin Rabe of Rutgers University. A keynote lecture was given by France Cordova, president of Rutgers University.