

# — SUMS —

## Seminar on Underrepresentation and the Mathematical Sciences

### THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN MATHEMATICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA: AN AMERICAN MODEL

PHILIP KUTZKO  
University of Iowa

#### Abstract

During the period 2005-2006, 1245 Ph.D.s were awarded in the mathematical sciences in the United States. Of this number 586 (47%) were US citizens or permanent residents and of this latter number, 40 (3.2%) were awarded to students from US ethnic minority groups underrepresented in mathematics. These numbers, low as they are, have been essentially stable for the last twenty five years. By contrast, the Department of Mathematics at the University of Iowa, a majority department at a majority university in a state with relatively few minority citizens, has awarded 14 Ph.D.s to underrepresented minority students since 1998 and expects to award an average of three such Ph.D.s per year for the foreseeable future. My hope in this talk is to focus on how this happened: the process by which a department transformed itself over ten years from a standard majority department to a department which has begun to move beyond race and ethnicity. I will explain and illustrate that such a transformation is not based on recruitment and retention although it leads to success in both areas. It is based, instead, on a profound desire to live and work in a department that encourages and supports the hopes, dreams and aspirations of young mathematicians from all parts and populations of our nation. It is this desire itself that is transformative and it is the locating and nurturing of this desire in its faculty, staff and students which must be the goal of any department which desires such change.

Tuesday, March 3  
4:00 p.m., Beckman Auditorium  
Refreshments will follow.