

— SUMS —

Seminar on Underrepresentation and the Mathematical Sciences

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN DEVELOPING SOME HERETOFORE UNTAPPED AMERICAN MATHEMATICAL TALENT

HERBERT MEDINA
Loyola Marymount University

Abstract

The U.S. citizen percentage of U.S. doctoral degrees in the mathematical sciences has dropped dramatically in recent years. Indeed, in 1980-81 the percentage of degrees earned by U.S. citizens was 68%, and by 2006-07 it had dropped 25 points to 43%.

Some within the mathematics community see this as a concern as the U.S. clearly is not able to produce enough home-grown mathematicians to satisfy its mathematical needs. The flat number of total bachelors degrees in the mathematical sciences suggests that the country's reliance on foreign mathematical talent will not decrease in the foreseeable future. If this is indeed a policy issue that warrants attention, then what are some successful strategies to generate an increase in the number of Americans earning mathematics doctorates?

In this talk, we will discuss some recent efforts to cultivate American mathematical talent within groups that have heretofore largely been untapped by the mathematical community.

Friday, April 10
4:00 p.m., 3rd Floor Sprague
Refreshments will follow.