

Committee on the Status of Women in Physics
Annual Report 2011
Kawtar Hafidi, Argonne National Laboratory
CSWP Chair 2011

The CSWP continues to be a very busy committee with dedicated former and current members who expand and maintain the list of projects and activities supported by the committee.

The committee held four meetings in the past year, a teleconference on February 12, 2011, an in-person meeting in College Park, MD on April 16, 2011, a teleconference on July 7, 2011 and another in-person meeting on September 16, 2011 in Chicago, IL.

Site Visit Program

The objective of the CSWP site visit program “Climate visits” is to help improve the climate of women in Physics in the Physics Departments and National Labs by identifying problems and obstacles that Women physicists (students, faculty and scientific staff) face in their institutions. In 2011, the committee conducted visits to the University of Connecticut and to the University of California at Santa Barbara. An additional site visit to Argonne National Laboratory is in the planning stages for 2012. The committee also adopted a few changes to the program.

Hybrid Site Visit Program

The conversation program was born as a result of the 2007 Gender Equity Conference. The program fosters dialogue between visiting discussion leaders and the members of departments or laboratories they visit. During the lifetime of the program (2009 to 2010), 11 conversation visits have been completed using the remaining funding from the 2007 Gender Equity Conference. A dedicated workshop to evaluate the conversation visit program and make recommendations to the CSWP was held in College Park, APS on March 5, 2011. It was suggested that both the climate and conversation visits could be combined in an improved new hybrid site visit program with built-in flexibility. The committee is investigating the possibility to develop a proposal to DOE to fund such a hybrid program dedicated to National Labs.

March and April Meeting sessions and Events

The committee organized several invited talk sessions at the March and April meetings, as well as several networking events. The invited sessions were well attended at both meetings. The networking breakfasts at the April meeting, co-sponsored with DPF and the March meeting, co-sponsored with FIAP, usually have a large number of students in attendance. CSWP organizes a joint reception with the Committee on Minorities at both meetings.

Professional Skill Development Workshops

APS has received another three-year NSF grant for professional skill development workshops. These workshops cover post-docs and junior faculty as well as mid-career faculty by rotating offerings at different meetings. The number of participants at each meeting is nearing the maximum capacity of about 45 participants. The number of applicants for 2012 nearly doubled indicating the great success of these workshops and the community need for such programs.

Child Care Grants

The committee continues to solicit and review applications for childcare grants. These grants defray the cost of childcare for March and April meeting attendees and the number of applications last year well exceeded the funds available (the grants are capped at \$400 per person). The number of men applying for the grants has increased. This year APS received the third and final installment of the Elsevier childcare grant. Due to the continued success of the program, the committee submitted another grant to Elsevier requesting \$10,000 a year. APS will match \$5,000 and the other units will also provide \$5,000 in matching funds.

Blewett Fellowship

The committee carefully reviewed the eligibility and selection criteria for the Blewett scholarship. Several improvements have been made and the committee decided to change the award from scholarship to fellowship. There were two recipients in the past year.

Other awards

The committee continues to actively solicit nominations of women for all APS awards/prizes and fellowships through letters to the large institutions, units and nominating committees. The committee members also serve on the Maria Goeppert-Mayer award committee. The committee initiated the “Woman Physicist of the Month” to be awarded to women physicists who had an impact on their students and colleagues and are worthy of recognition. The selected physicists will be featured in the CSWP web site and gazette. The committee is also developing a new award for excellence in gender equity to recognize departments with universities and Divisions with National Labs for achieving excellence in gender equity issues.

Gazette

This newsletter is published jointly with the Committee on Minorities. The spring issue focused on senior women in physics and the fall issue on creating successful undergraduate programs.

Poster

The committee is developing a new poster targeting a middle and high school female audience.

Women Speakers Travel Grant Program

The committee approved new guidelines for the travel grant program including the possibility of childcare reimbursement for the program speakers.

CSWP members, 2011

Kawtar Hafidi, Chair, Argonne National Laboratory; Vicki Greene, Chair-Elect, Vanderbilt University; Susan Blessing, Florida State University; Patricia Burchat, Stanford University; Premala Chandra, Rutgers University; Charles Doering, University of Michigan; Elizabeth Foley, Nova Photonics; Amanda Peet, University of Toronto; Saeqa Vritlek, Harvard-Smithsonian observatory.