

IBParticipation Institute for Broadening Participation

The Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) designs and implements strategies to increase access to science and education for diverse underrepresented groups, including, but not limited to, underrepresented minorities, socio-economically challenged populations, populations in remote locations, women, first-generation college students, and others.

IBP has worked with undergraduate and graduate student programs with funding from the Education and Human Resources Directorate of the National Science Foundation for the past six years, and has developed a model for supporting national networks in an effort to increase the number of underrepresented minorities and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

IBP has developed a web presence, driven by a sophisticated, interactive and continually updated relational database, designed to inform students and faculty about STEM programs and opportunities at all levels of their educational pathways. IBP websites include:

- <http://www.igert.org>
- <http://www.agep.us>
- <http://ibparticipation.org>
- <http://www.msphds.org>

As a complement to its national projects, IBP has expanded its mission over the past year to contribute to the STEM community in Maine by using the infrastructure developed in support of national programs and networks. We have piloted the website, <http://www.mainestem.org>, populated with data on Maine STEM programs, events, institutions, contacts, leadership and student profiles, and including content associated with the statewide Maine STEM initiative.

By increasing participation at all levels in STEM education, we build a workforce that is diverse and inclusive both with respect to social makeup and with respect to a broad range of STEM disciplines. Our comprehensive approach to recruitment, retention, and career development—including the tools we have developed to address these issues—can serve as models for other regional, state, or national programs that seek to strengthen STEM education and the STEM workforce.

