Widening Participation in Research & Innovation

Nancy Cantor
Chancellor
Rutgers University – Newark

Gender Summit 5
Cape Town, South Africa
Benefits of STEM Diversity in Operation
April 28, 2015
Solitary Genius?

Bacon saw science as a fundamentally communal endeavor, dependent upon “the accumulating cultural base and the concerted efforts of men [sic] of science sharpening their ideas through social interaction.”

Robert Merton

“... if one is to stand on the shoulders of giants, one must first climb up their backs, and the greater the body of knowledge, the harder this climb becomes.”

Benjamin Jones
Insular Science

“Civic science aims to tap the immense potential of science—and scientists—to transform society ... The civic science framework recognizes that many talents and different kinds of knowledge—cultural and narrative, experiential, local, spiritual, among others—are integrated in effective collaborative efforts as a community of experts, with scientific knowledge on tap not on top.”

Harry Boyte

The Miami Herald

In Florida, officials ban term 'climate change'

Los Angeles Times

Disneyland measles crisis should wake up the anti-vaccination crowd

The Washington Post

Americans are still scientifically illiterate — and scientists still need a PR team
“Institutions and communities are developing a new paradigm for generative partnerships … not done to but designed with a multifaceted group of stakeholders whose norms, resources, perspectives, and histories meet, greet, and collide in the crucible of community that binds one person’s welfare to another’s.”

Caryn McTighe Musil
Publicly Engaged Science & Innovation

Significant societal problems cannot be solved without full inclusion. Inclusion will result in better science and a better society.

Higher education – community engagement focused on locally manifested global problems is a good way to realize full inclusion.

Harkavy, Cantor & Burnett 2014
Ensuring Diversity in STEM

The New York Times

A Future Segregated by Science?

By Charles M. Blow

“...is this an area in which the future will feel more stratified, and in which the inequalities, particularly economic ones, will mount?”

Representation Index for Women of Color by Degrees Awarded and Faculty Rank

National Science Foundation National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, 2013
Data for women faculty in computer sciences suppressed.
Representation Index = % Representation in a category/% Representation in US population

Students view Google demographics report as cry for diversity in STEM programs
Good for Science, Good for Society

Gluck Lab
African American Brain Health Initiative

Greening Newark

Greater Newark Youth Violence Consortium
Navigating the STEM Perfect Storm

- Diversity Ahead
- Inclusion Ahead
- Engagement Ahead
- Innovation Ahead