

## FOREWORD

This document is a report of the Proceedings of the Minority Physics Conference sponsored and funded by the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and held at the Laboratory on November 7 and 8, 1974. Participants were invited from thirty educational, governmental, and business institutions to discuss the problems faced by minority students in science, particularly in physics, and to suggest methods of increasing minority participation in these scientific fields.

The Conference was to some extent an outgrowth of the Fermilab's summer program for minority students, which has brought 20 to 30 undergraduate students to the Laboratory during summers. At the Laboratory, the students work in a scientific group. The objective of this program is to stimulate minority students to pursue professional careers in science. This program has evolved significantly in the four years of its existence and Fermilab people wanted input from students' institutions on the effectiveness of the program.

In a broader context, the Conference addressed itself to the well-documented smallness of minority participation in professional scientific and technical fields and to developing methods of increasing this participation. The last Conference addressing this social problem was held in 1970 and it was believed that the time had come to reconsider the state of minority participation in science and of the efforts to increase it. The Conference was also a good occasion for people working toward these goals to exchange ideas and methods.

A Steering Committee for the Conference was appointed. The members are:

James C. Davenport, Chairman	Virginia State College
Julius H. Taylor	Morgan State College
Carl Spight	Morehouse College
Vicente J. Llamas	New Mexico Highlands University
Joyce L. Downs	Fermilab
Francis T. Cole	Fermilab

The Steering Committee met in September, 1974, before the Conference to establish the goals and agenda for the Conference. These goals and agenda are given below.

In the narrower context of the Fermilab summer program, the consensus of the Conference was that the program is operating reasonably well. Specific suggestions were made that the students should be paid on a monthly basis, so that they could work more professionally, and that the housing for students be improved.

In the broader context of increasing the number of minority professional scientists, the consensus of the Conference was that funding is needed for scholarships, laboratory equipment and teaching aids for minority schools, which produce approximately 70% of minority graduates in science. The steering committee was charged with the responsibility of moving to seek such funding. These findings of the Conference are spelled out in more detail in the resolutions given below.