The Imes-Moore Fellows Program: A Bridge Program at the University of Michigan Aimed to Enhanced Diversity in Applied Physics

CAGLIYAN KURDAK, University of Michigan — The Applied Physics Program at the University of Michigan allows graduate students to do research at the frontier between the physical sciences and technological applications, which is not readily accommodated by traditional single-focus graduate programs. In the last 30 years, the program has attracted many underrepresented minority and female students, matched these students with faculty with research projects that are beyond the traditional boundaries of physics, and provided the support structure and mentorship that was needed for the students to succeed. Building on our success, six year ago we have launched a master’s bridge-to-PhD program designed to prepare students from underrepresented groups for doctoral studies in applied physics. The program is highly integrated with our PhD Program allowing smooth transitioning of bridge students into our PhD Program.

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