

MAR14-2013-020279

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the MAR14 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

Overview and History of CUWiP

KEVIN PITTS, University of Illinois

The APS Conferences for Undergraduate Women in Physics (CUWiP) are a continuation of a grass-roots collaborative effort of physicists from around the country that has provided conferences for undergraduate women annually since 2006. The goals of the CUWiP effort are to increase retention and improve career outcomes of undergraduate women in physics by (i) communicating the breadth of education and career paths open to physics majors; (ii) disseminating information and advice on applying for summer research, graduate school and professional employment; and (iii) providing opportunities to share experiences, advice and ideas with women at different stages of their education or career paths. Since the first conference in 2006, the number of CUWiP locations has grown from one in the first two years to six in 2012 and 2013. The number of participants has shown more than commensurate growth—increasing from 29 students to approximately 650 in the first seven years. Close to 900 women attended the 2013 conferences and almost 300 applicants had to be turned away. The 2014 Conferences again saw record number of applicants and attendees, with 1300 students participated in conferences at eight different sites.