

Report of the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession for 2011

Created by the American Economic Association over 40 years ago (and in operation under its current name since 1975), the Committee on the Status of Minority Groups in the Economics Profession (CSMGEP) exists to monitor the status and promote the advancement of racial/ethnic minority groups in the economics profession. One reason for the concern about the under-representation of racial/ethnic groups in the profession stems from the fact that in many cases, economic policies which directly (and indirectly) affect these populations are shaped without the perspectives of members of these groups; as such, policymakers may have incomplete information about what actually occurs “on the ground”. Moreover, what happens within these populations not only affects members of these groups. Their economic outcomes impact the U.S. as a whole, more so now than in the past, given their current significant presence in the general population. Indeed, the 2010 Decennial Census indicated that Blacks represent one out of every eight people in the U.S., and Hispanics represent one out of every six.

Recent Data on Minority Representation in the Economics Profession

The extent of the underrepresentation of racial/ethnic minorities in the economics profession is not trivial. According to the AEA Universal Academic Questionnaire (UAQ) for the 2010-11 academic year,¹ in economics departments in Ph.D.-granting institutions, Blacks represented 0.9 percent, and Hispanics, 2.4 percent, of full-time Full Professors in tenured or tenure-track positions (see Panel A in Table 1). In other full-time economics positions in these institutions, Blacks and Hispanics comprised 3.2 percent and 5.1 percent of Associate Professors,

¹ I thank Charles E. Scott at Loyola University Maryland for providing me with these UAQ numbers. Due to preserving the confidentiality of the sample, the numbers of Native Americans in these positions are not reported.

respectively, and 1.9 percent and 6.2 percent of Assistant Professors. Table 1 also reports these groups' shares among full-time economics faculty members in masters-degree (Panel B) and bachelors-degree granting institutions (Panel C). In all ranks (particularly among Full Professors level), these numbers fall well below the general population shares of Blacks and Hispanics.

Table 1: Representation of Blacks and Hispanics in Full-Time Economics Faculty Positions in Institutions of Higher Education: 2010-11 Academic Year

| Characteristic | Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty | | | Non-Tenure-Track Faculty |
|---|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| | Full Professors | Associate Professors | Assistant Professors | |
| <i>Panel A – Econ Ph.D. Degree Granting Institutions:</i> | | | | |
| Blacks | 0.9% | 3.2% | 1.9% | 2.6% |
| Hispanics | 2.4% | 5.1% | 6.2% | 3.3% |
| <i>Panel B – Econ Masters Degree Granting Institutions:</i> | | | | |
| Blacks | 2.2% | 2.8% | 3.4% | 1.6% |
| Hispanics | 1.3% | 1.4% | 2.7% | 6.3% |
| <i>Panel C – Econ Bachelors Degree Granting Institutions:</i> | | | | |
| Blacks | 2.1% | 2.6% | 3.3% | 1.9% |
| Hispanics | 1.4% | 1.7% | 4.6% | 1.9% |

Source: AEA Universal Academic Questionnaire (see Note 1).

With the exception of Blacks in Ph.D.-granting institutions, Table 1 further shows that the highest shares of Black and Hispanic economics faculty members in full-time tenured/tenure-track positions in all three institution types exist at the Assistant Professor level, suggesting that their representation among senior-level faculty members could increase in the not-so-distant future as they move through the tenure-track process. However, this might not be the case for Blacks in Ph.D.-granting institutions, as their representation is higher among Associate Professors than Assistant Professors of economics.

The under-representation of these groups in the economics discipline also exists among recent college graduates, and it is particularly acute at the highest schooling levels. In 2009, of

the 26,307 economics bachelors degrees awarded by U.S. institutions to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, 4.8 percent (1,271) were awarded to Blacks, 5.8 percent (1,534) were awarded to Hispanics, and 0.5 percent (120) were awarded to Native Americans (see Panel A in Table 2).² At the post-baccalaureate level, 3,241 masters degrees in economics were conferred that year, of which 2.7 percent (88) went to Blacks, 2.4 percent (78) to Hispanics, and 0.2 percent (only 7) to Native Americans. Moreover, Blacks received only 0.7 percent (a total of 4) of the 549 economics doctoral degrees awarded in 2009, Hispanics, 1.5 percent (only 8), and none went to Native Americans.

Table 2: Representation of Blacks, Hispanics, and Native Americans among Economics Degrees Awarded to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents in 2000 and 2009

| Characteristic | Bachelors Degrees | Masters Degrees | Doctoral Degrees |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <i>Panel A - 2009:</i> | | | |
| Total Degrees Conferred | 26,307 | 3,241 | 549 |
| Blacks | 4.8% | 2.7% | 0.7% |
| Hispanics | 5.8% | 2.4% | 1.5% |
| Native Americans | 0.5% | 0.2% | 0.0% |
| <i>Panel B - 2000:</i> | | | |
| Total Degrees Conferred | 18,431 | 2,163 | 847 |
| Blacks | 5.3% | 2.7% | 2.1% |
| Hispanics | 5.1% | 2.3% | 1.9% |
| Native Americans | 0.4% | 0.1% | 0.0% |

Source: Estimates from the National Center for Education Statistics' *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System* (for all U.S. institutions); see Note 2.

Compared to 2000 (see Panel B in Table 2), Blacks and Hispanics had lost ground (both on a relative and absolute basis) with respect to their presence among doctoral degree recipients

² These estimates come from the National Center for Education Statistics' *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System* for all U.S. institutions. Hispanics can be of any race. Ms. Alma Hales provided excellence assistance in compiling these numbers. Additional numbers should be available on the CSMGEP website by late January 2011.

in 2009. Blacks also lost ground in a relative sense among economics bachelors degree recipients between 2000 and 2009, and the gain for Hispanics did not keep pace with their overall population growth during that time.

It should be noted that these changes did not mirror changes in these groups' presence among recent college graduates in general. For all bachelors degrees awarded to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, the share of Blacks increased from 8.4 percent to 9.1 percent between 2000 and 2009, and the share of Hispanics rose from 5.8 percent to 7.5 percent (see Figure 1). Also, the decade witnessed an increase in both groups' representation among all doctoral degree recipients (see Figure 2). As such, the recent decline in the representation of Blacks and Hispanics among economics doctoral degree recipients does not appear to have been caused by an overall downturn in these groups' presence among all doctoral degree recipients. The reason(s) behind this decline is a topic that CSMGEP will likely explore in the near future.

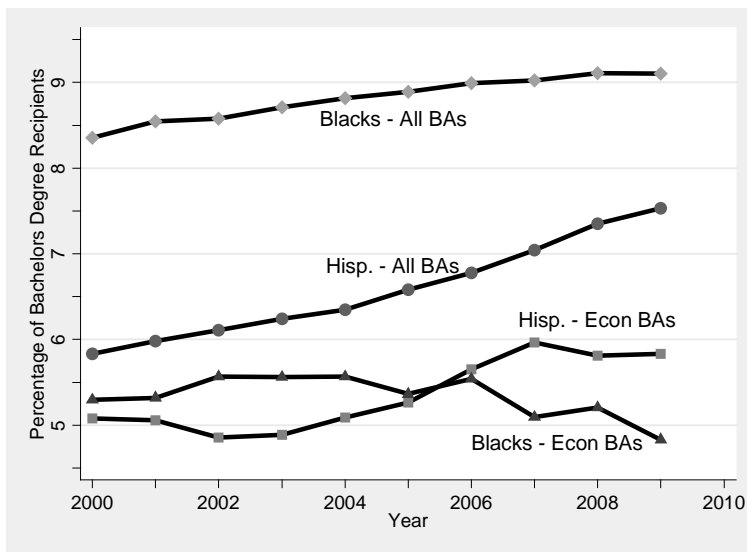


Figure 1: The Representation of Blacks and Hispanics among Bachelors Degrees Awarded to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents: 2000-2009

Source: Estimates from the National Center for Education Statistics' *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System* (for all U.S. institutions); see Note 2.

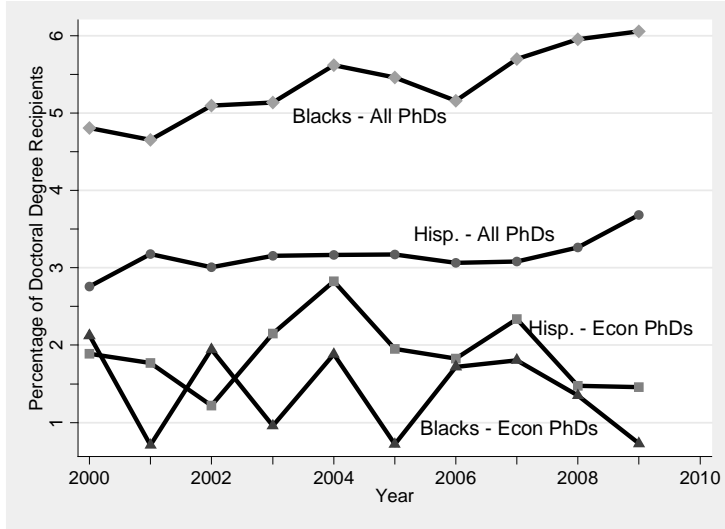


Figure 2: The Representation of Blacks and Hispanics among Doctoral Degrees Awarded to U.S. Citizens and Permanent Residents: 2000-2009

Source: Estimates from the National Center for Education Statistics’ *Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System* (for all U.S. institutions); see Note 2.

Recent Activities of CSMGEP

Consistent with its mission to increase the participation of racial/ethnic minority groups in the economics profession, CSMGEP oversees two programs: (1) the AEA Summer Training Program (AEASP) which began in the mid-1970s for undergraduate students planning to pursue a graduate degree in economics, and (2) the AEA Mentorship/Pipeline Program, which was designed in the mid-1990s to provide mentorship and training opportunities for African Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans in economics graduate programs as well as newly minted Ph.D.s in economics. Along with the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), CSMGEP has also co-sponsored the Summer Fellows Program, which provides opportunities for advanced graduate students and junior-level economists to spend a summer in a research department of a sponsoring institution.

The year of 2011 represented a year of transition for CSMGEP. The search for a new AEASP—which began in 2009 when the University of California, Santa Barbara announced it

did not wish to continue its role as host beyond the Summer of 2010—concluded in the Spring of 2011, with the approval by the AEA Executive Committee that the University of New Mexico (UNM) would serve as the next host, and Robert Valdez, Director of the UNM Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy, would serve as the next AEASP Director. For the first time in the history of the program, the AEASP was not held in 2011 because of delays in the host-search process; it will resume in the Summer of 2012. In the latter part of 2011, Robert Valdez and a planning committee organized by CSMGEP created a National Advisory Board for the Program, which includes representatives from CSGMEP, the National Economic Association (NEA), the American Society of Hispanic Economists (ASHE), and alumni of the AEASP.

In June 2011, the AEA Pipeline/Mentorship Program (currently funded through a grant from the National Science Foundation) held its annual conference in Tallahassee, in which a dozen graduate students presented their work. In addition to hosting these presentations, the conference brings together students, mentors, and other interested participants for the purposes of professional development and networking. Since 2009, the Director of this Program has been Patrick Mason at Florida State University. The 2012 conference will be held in late July in Albuquerque to allow the AEASP students to also participate, as has been the tradition.

CSMGEP was also actively involved in other conferences throughout the year as part of its efforts to increase the presence of minority economists in professional conference activities. At the 2011 AEA/ASSA meetings in Denver, CSMGEP sponsored two sessions, one of which was its annual Dissertation Session, and the other was on the Economics of Stratification. CSMGEP also organized its first session (on Education, Health, and Wealth Outcomes) at the 2011 Western Economic Association International (WEAI) annual meetings in San Diego. We already have plans to organize at least two more sessions for the 2012 WEAI meetings, one of

which will be a panel for the purposes of professional development. Moreover, 2011 was the second year when CSMGEP organized a session at the Southern Economic Association (SEA) meetings. As with the upcoming WEAI meetings, we have started discussing hosting a professional development session at the 2012 SEA meetings.

For the first time, in October 2011 CSMGEP co-sponsored the conference on *Economic Issues Affecting Hispanic and African American Communities* hosted by the Department of Economics at Texas A&M University and ASHE. In its fifth year, part of this annual conference has involved presenters bringing undergraduate students interested in pursuing graduate degrees in economics. The conference gives students the opportunity to learn about necessary coursework for entry into economics graduate programs, as well as to experience an academic conference. It also provides a forum for faculty members and other economists interested in minority economic issues to exchange ideas and present their work.

A new CSMGEP initiative to promote scholarship/research opportunities for minority economists is the reimbursement for presenters in CSMGEP sessions at the ASSA, SEA, and WEAI annual meetings for one journal submission fee (up to \$250) within six months of their presentation. As in the past couple of years, we also co-sponsored the NEA's annual meeting/reception in 2011, and we will begin to further co-sponsor ASHE's annual meeting/reception in 2012. These events provide important networking, information sharing, and mentoring opportunities for students, faculty members, and economists outside of academia who participate in these events.

Moreover, after a skipping a year due to production-related issues, in 2011 CSMGEP revived the production of its annual newsletter *The Minority Report* (joint with ASHE and the NEA) for distribution at the 2012 AEA/ASSA meetings in Chicago. This newsletter was a

project that Cecilia Rouse at Princeton University had started four year earlier. In addition to its standard features (such as jobs outside of academia described by economists in such positions), the articles in the Winter 2012 issue include one on plagiarism in the economics profession by Gary Hoover, another on racial/ethnic differences among economics baccalaureates by Marie T. Mora, and a professional development article on how to give effective presentations by Mark Hugo López.

CSMGEP welcomed four new members in January 2011: Don Fullerton at the University of Illinois, Gary Hoover at the University of Alabama, Rucker Johnson at the University of California Berkeley, and Fernando Lozano at Pomona College. They replaced Ngina Chiteji at Skidmore College, and Susan Collins at the University of Michigan, whose second consecutive terms had ended in December 2010. In December 2011, the second consecutive terms of both Janice Shack-Marquez at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and Sue K. Stockly at Eastern New Mexico University also expired. CSMGEP appreciates the hard work and effort these four members had put into the committee during their six years of service. Joining the Committee in January 2012 will be Francisca Antman at the University of Colorado, and Trevon Logan at the Ohio State University. Moreover, Cecilia Rouse at Princeton University will return to her position as CSMGEP Chair in January 2012—a position she had vacated to join the White House Council of Economic Advisors in 2009. CSMGEP welcomes these new members as well as the return of Ceci Rouse. In all, these changes have increased the total size of the Committee to ten members.

Acknowledgements and Appreciation

CSMGEP expresses its appreciation to the American Economic Association for its support, both financial and in terms of staff resources. I also want to thank the immediate past

Chair, Ngina Chiteji, for her help with putting things into place for us in 2011 as well as her invaluable advice throughout the year. I further thank Patrick Mason for his enthusiasm towards the AEA Mentorship/Pipeline Program, which was evident during the 2011 Mentorship Conference. I greatly appreciate Barbara Fiser for her timely assistance with CSMGEP budget-related issues and questions, and other AEA staff members (including Susan Houston and Jenna Kensey for their help with the CSMGEP website). They have all been extremely cordial and helpful. Finally, I would like to express my thanks to Orley Ashenfelter for having appointed me as Chair in 2011, and especially to John Siegfried for his timely and thoughtful advice during my short tenure as Chair of this Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie T. Mora, *Chair*