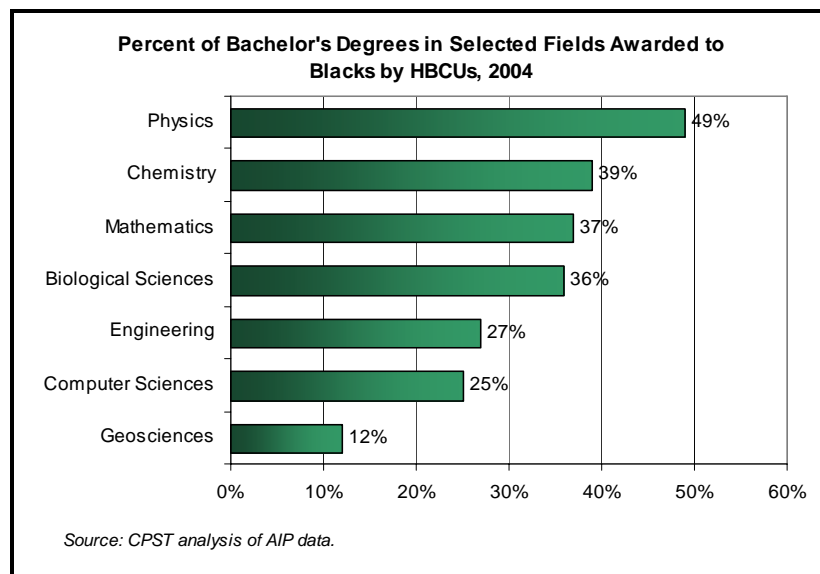


## *Untapped Talent: African American Presence in Physics and Geosciences*

A new report from the American Institute of Physics (AIP) documents the continued under-representation of African Americans in physics and the geosciences. Using data from the National Science Foundation and the AIP Statistical Research Center, the report details the role of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the production of physics and geosciences degrees earned by African Americans. Report highlights include:

- Although many African Americans achieve high scores on standardized mathematics tests, these students are less likely than comparable white students to graduate from college.
- African American representation across all bachelor's degree fields is lowest among geosciences and physics bachelor's degree recipients.
- HBCUs play a significant role in preparing African American physicists and geoscientists: 49% of all physics degrees earned by African Americans in 2004 were awarded by HBCUs (see chart).
- Majority-serving institutions "have thus far played virtually no role in the education of African American physicists." (p. ii).
- In 2004 there were only 171 African American physics faculty members in the United States.
- Between 1975 and 2004 – in 30 years– only 291 African Americans earned doctoral degrees in physics; another 111 earned doctoral degrees in the geosciences in the United States.

The report is available online at the AIP Statistical Research Center website.



**On the Web:** [www.aip.org/statistics](http://www.aip.org/statistics).

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