

**Profile of  
Wisconsin Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WiscAMP)  
University of Wisconsin–Madison  
2021 Regents Diversity Award Program Recipient**

**Highlights from nomination materials:**

- The Wisconsin Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WiscAMP) was established in 2004 with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to increase the number of students graduating in a STEM discipline (science, technology, engineering, or mathematics) who are from an ethnic or racial group that is minoritized in STEM. Since then, this NSF grant has been renewed three times with the program meeting or exceeding its goals to both increase underrepresented minority STEM student numbers and change the culture of academic STEM to be welcoming and inclusive of all potential talent.
- Led by Dr. Gail Coover as its executive director, WiscAMP contributes to the successful recruitment, retention, academic success, and career paths of hundreds of students, sustaining longstanding connections spanning 13 UW System campuses, Wisconsin's private colleges, and Madison College.
- Over the past decade, more than 90 Wisconsin small grants and subawards have supported initiatives aligned with WiscAMP goals at every alliance institution, with 90%+ of resources going to students. Annually, alliance-wide programs, including an Excel summer program and annual Student Leadership Symposium, provide entrepreneurship and leadership training as well as professional development and networking opportunities for undergraduates, graduate fellows, and faculty. WiscAMP has dramatically increased growth in the number of Wisconsin students who are Black, Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island, Latinx, and Hmong graduating with STEM baccalaureate degrees.
- Between 2013 and 2018, WiscAMP institutions collectively increased the number of underrepresented minority students who completed their baccalaureate degrees in STEM by 66%, from 345 in 2013 to 550 in 2018. The five-year growth rate in underrepresented minority STEM degrees averaged across institutions between 2014 and 2018 was 86% compared to 46% between 2009 and 2013. This translates into an average of 200 more underrepresented minority students graduating with STEM baccalaureate degrees each year between 2013 and 2018 compared to the previous five years.
- WiscAMP's Bridge to the Doctorate program, initiated in 2015 and funded through a special NSF grant mechanism restricted to alliances that have been continuously funded for 10 years or more, is helping successful students enter graduate programs. These advances help build a national pool of doctoral scholars and bolster ongoing efforts to hire excellent faculty, academic staff scientists, and instructional academic staff from communities that have been historically excluded from higher education.
- WiscAMP engages students across many dimensions of diversity, including gender and socioeconomic status. Of the 513 students supported directly through programming between 2013 and 2017, 57% (290) are women, 33% of whom were majoring in math, engineering, or a physical science. Of the 124 students participating in the Excel summer program since 2013, 90% qualified for need-based financial aid, compared to 48% of students enrolled at UW-Madison or 66% of students enrolled in UW System campuses overall.

**In the words of a colleague:**

- "WiscAMP [was recommended] for a host of reasons, including its leadership's commitment to improve bias literacy for faculty and mitigate unintended impacts of stereotype-based bias; success in bringing hundreds of Black, Native American, Alaskan Native, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island, Latinx, and Hmong students into STEM majors each year; commitment to supporting strong academic achievement and timely graduation; and evidence that students are making successful transitions from college to meaningful and well-paid employment or to graduate school." —*Rebecca M. Blank, Chancellor, UW-Madison*