



To Be Young, Gifted, and a Mathematical Scientist: Factors Affecting Advancement

Sylvia T. Bozeman, Ph.D.

Spelman College (Emerita faculty)

sbozeman@spelman.edu

This talk will explore with the audience some of the challenges and opportunities of graduate students as well as of recent doctoral recipients aspiring for careers in the mathematical sciences as both groups seek to advance. Results of recent research will particularly include the “voices of women” as they reflect on factors that enhanced or impeded their progress through graduate school and into their early careers.

Biography

Sylvia T. Bozeman is Professor Emerita at Spelman College where her roles included mathematics department chair and associate provost for science and mathematics. Consistent with her professional goal of increasing diversity in the scientific community, Bozeman is co-founder (1998) of Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE), a national program to assist women in making the transition to graduate school and earning Ph.D.s in the mathematical sciences.

Bozeman grew up in Camp Hill, Alabama and earned three degrees in mathematics: B.S. at Alabama A&M University, M.A. at Vanderbilt University, and Ph.D. at Emory University. Her research areas are Operator Theory in Functional Analysis, Image Processing, and graduate school persistence. She has received awards from Spelman College, the Mathematical Association of America (MAA), the National Association of Mathematicians (NAM), and the Quality Education for Minorities in Science and Engineering Network. Most recently she received the Dr. Etta Z. Falconer Award for Mentoring and Commitment to Diversity at the Infinite Possibilities Conference (2007), received a Mentor Award (2008) from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), was elected AAAS Fellow (2010), and selected for the initial class of Fellows of the American Mathematical Society (AMS, 2013). Among her recent presentations are a Congressional Briefing on undergraduate mathematics (MAA sponsored, 2009), the Cox-Talbot Address (NAM, 2012) and the Leitzel Lecture (MAA, 2012). The EDGE Program has been recognized by the AMS among its “Programs that Work.”