

Earth 194 DE Week Seven Reflections

Week Seven: Geoscience Doctoral Degrees

No progress on diversity in 40 years

Nature Geoscience, Bernard and Cooperdock 2018

1. In the introduction, Bernard and Cooperdock state “years of outreach have yet to make any significant strides toward increasing diversity at the PhD level” - why do you think our national efforts are failing to create meaningful changes for doctoral programs?
2. There has been some backlash from this paper from geoscientists because Bernard and Cooperdock claim “no progress” on diversity in 40 years, yet shows an increase in women with PhDs in the geosciences - what would your response be to this? How should we be defining “diversity” in geoscience?
3. In table 1, Bernard and Cooperdock report that 85% of all geoscience degree recipients in 2016 were White, 6% were Asian, 5% were hispanic/latino, 1% were Black, 1% were Native American, and 45% were female. They used the NSF's database on the Survey of Earned Doctorates (<https://nces.nsf.gov/pubs/nsf22300>) - How many PhDs in geoscience were awarded in 2020 versus 2016? What percent of geoscience PhDs went to women and URM groups? How many PhDs went to women of color?
4. What was your experience like navigating the survey of earned doctorates page?

** Serial Testimony: One round, Q1-2 (Q3-4 revisited in group activity)*