



Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in Information Technology (CMD-IT)

Fostering Innovations Through Inclusion

<http://www.cmd-it.org>

Trend Analysis for People with Disabilities

June 2011

Introduction

This report provides a brief summary of the slides presented by Dr. Joan Burrelli, retired Senior Science Resources Analyst from the NSF National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics, during a 2007 mini-symposium on Institutions Serving Persons with Disabilities organized by the NSF Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering (CEOSE). Using references from Dr. Burrelli, CMD-IT has updated some of the slides. As discussed in slide 9, data about degrees by disability status is hard to obtain because institutions differ in how they count students with disabilities and institutions differ in availability of records.

The following is a summary of the findings given for each slide. We also identify the slides with updates.

- **Slide 2:** About 24 million people, or 16% of the U.S. working age population in **2002** have a disability.
 - Approximately 8% of the population or 11.9 million people have difficulty walking or going up stairs.
 - Approximately 2.5% of the population or 3.7 million people have difficulty seeing.
 - Approximately 2.3% of the population or 3.4 million people have difficulty hearing.
 - Approximately 1.4% of the population or 2.0 million people have a learning disability.
 - Approximately 0.9% of the population or 1.4 million people have difficulty with speech.
- **Slide 3:** Among secondary students ages 14-21, learning disabilities are the most prevalent disability. *This slide has been updated to cover the years 1999-2008; the original slide covered the time period of 1996-2005.*
- **Slide 4:** Undergraduate students with disabilities choose S&E majors at about the same rate as students without a disability. *This slide has been updated to focus on 2008 data; the original slide focused on 2004 data.*
- **Slide 5:** More than half of postsecondary students with disabilities are in public 2-year schools.
- **Slide 6:** Students with disabilities are less likely than those without to complete a bachelor's degree.
- **Slide 7:** Bachelor's graduates with and without disabilities enroll in and complete graduate school at about the same rate.
- **Slide 8:** Graduate students with disabilities are less likely than those without to major in natural sciences and engineering. *This slide has been updated to focus on 2008 data; the original slide focused on 2004 data.*
- **Slide 9:** Discusses the reasons for little data about BS and MS degrees by disability status.

- **Slide 10:** Identifies the science and engineering doctorate recipients by disability status. *This slide has been updated to include the time period of 1999 thru 2008; the original slide included the time period of 1997 thru 2005.*
- **Slide 11:** Identifies the percentages of doctorate recipients from slide 10.
- **Slide 12:** Identifies the percentages with disabilities for different age groups.
- **Slide 14:** Students with disabilities age 14 to 21 exiting special education, by exit reason. *This slide has been updated to focus on data from 2008; the original slide focused on 2005.*
- **Slide 15:** Number of postsecondary students with disabilities by institution type.
- **Slide 16:** Population ages 14 to 21 that are served under IDEA Part B, by type of disability. *This slide has been updated to focus on the time period of 1999 thru 2008; the original slide focused on the time period of 1996 thru 2005.*
- **Slide 17:** Number of employed scientists and engineers with disabilities by type of disability.
- **Slide 18:** Percentage of employed scientists and engineers with a disability by area.
- **Slide 19:** Number of employed scientists and engineers with disabilities by occupation. *This slide has been updated to focus on data from 2006; the original slide focused on 2003.*
- **Slide 20:** Number of doctoral science and engineering faculty with disabilities by type of disability.
- **Slide 21:** Percentage of doctoral science and engineering faculty with disabilities by occupation.