



A Conversation with NSF: The BPC Initiative and Q&A

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THE CISE BPC INITIATIVE



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Motivation for the BPC Initiative

“It will take more than good intentions or business as usual, however, to reverse longstanding underrepresentation. **It will take committed, focused, and sustained efforts on the part of many in the computing community.**”

“CISE will address BP programmatically both through focused activities and through **the inclusion of BPC efforts as an accepted and expected part of its research and education award portfolios.**”

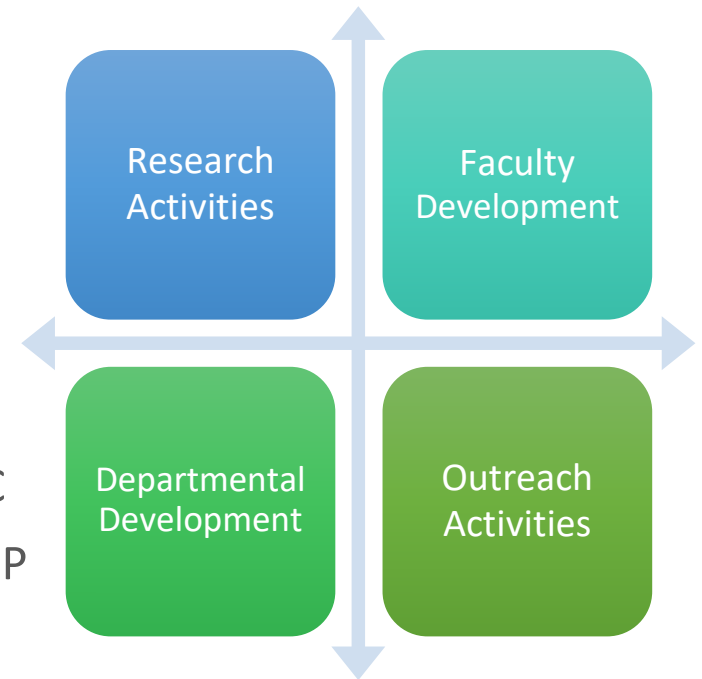
CISE AC BP Strategic Plan
(2012)

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https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/files/CISE_BroadeningParticipation_508.pdf

Vision: BPC embedded in CISE Research Community

- **CISE research proposals include a *meaningful* plan to broaden participation in computing**
- Quality of plans improve; amount of reviewer feedback needed declines
- Plans are implemented; lessons learned from implementation are shared
- BPC working group monitors and supports progress of BPC
- Collaborations increase between CISE and other PIs with BP expertise
- **Measurable progress towards diversifying the CISE Research Community**



Timeline of the CISE BPC Initiative

- **Fiscal Year 2017:** NSF 17-110, [Dear Colleague Letter: Pursuing Meaningful Actions in Support of BPC](#), announced
- **Fiscal Year 2018:** BPC Project plans **encouraged** for Expeditions in Computing, Cyber-Physical Systems, and Secure & Trustworthy Cyberspace Frontier submissions
- **Fiscal Year 2019-2021:** BPC Project plans **required by time of award** in Medium and Large proposals submitted to core programs, CPS, and SaTC. **Departmental BPC Plans encouraged**
- **Fiscal Year 2022:** BPC Project plans **required at time of submission**

Evolution of BPC Departmental Plans

- Launch of **BPCnet.org** with guidelines on how to develop an ***individual plan***
- Revision of **BPCnet.org** with guidelines on how to develop a ***Departmental plan*** + free consultancy sign-ups offered
- BPC Departmental Plan workshops offered (like today's)
- Revision of **BPCnet.org** guidelines to align with revised NSF Core solicitation

NSF CISE Definition of Underrepresentation

“BPC promotes a diverse and inclusive computing workforce and research community by addressing underrepresentation and disparities among various groups, including:

- women,
- persons with disabilities,
- Blacks and African Americans,
- Hispanics and Latinos,
- American Indians,
- Alaska Natives,
- Native Hawaiians, and
- Other Pacific Islanders

”



<https://www.nsf.gov/cise/bpc/>

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5 elements of a *meaningful* BPC plan

1. **Goal and Context:** Does the plan describe a goal and the data from your institution(s) or local community that justify that goal?
2. **Intended population(s):** Does the plan identify the characteristics of participants, including school level?
3. **Strategy:** Does the plan describe activities that address the stated goal(s) and intended population(s)?
4. **Measurement:** Is there a plan to measure the outcome(s) of the activities?
5. **PI Engagement:** Is there a clear role for each PI and co-PI? Does the plan describe how the PI is prepared (or will prepare or collaborate) to do the proposed work?

<https://new.nsf.gov/funding/opportunities/computer-information-science-engineering-core>

Differences between Broader Impacts & BPC

FAQ #4 <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2022/nsf22125/nsf22125.jsp#q4>

- **Broader Impacts** “covers an array of activities that impact society, and may or may not include broadening participation.”
- “**Broadening participation will address members of groups underrepresented in computing**... while Broader Impacts will not necessarily address these groups underrepresented in computing.”

How do PIs use a Departmental BPC Plan?

FAQ #21 <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2022/nsf22125/nsf22125.jsp#q21>

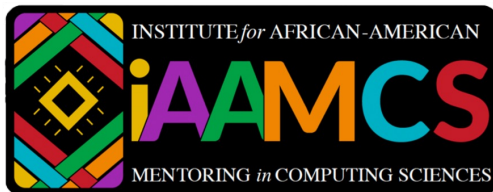
- **Connected Project BPC Plan** – if the institution has a verified Departmental Plan, PI can propose to use BPC activities from the plan and attached the verified plan to the submitted project BPC Plan.
- Some of the elements from a meaningful BPC Plan now come from the Departmental Plan
 - Focus on PI Engagement

Supplements for Departmental Plans

- **BPC Supplements** “extend the reach of broadening participation plans implemented as part of a CISE Core Medium or Large project.”
 - Extend the reach of current BPC activities that have some evidence of effectiveness to more participants or institutions; or
 - Coordinate and institutionalize BPC activities within a department or similar unit.
- Less than 20% of original award amount, not exceed \$200k in direct costs, and can be completed by expiration date of original grant.



NSF CISE BPC Alliances



Northeastern University
Center for Inclusive Computing



Alliances span pathways



preK-12: REAL-CS, ECEP, CSforAll



Undergraduate: STARS, CIC, SRC



Graduate: CRA-WP, CAHSI, iAAMCS



Faculty: LEAP, NCWIT, AccessComputing



Q&A?



NSF CISE BPC Initiative



Official NSF BPC FAQ



**CISE Core Programs
Solicitation**