There is an enormous need for programs to support women in U.S. higher education, particularly in physics and astronomy departments where women are rare.

**Background:**
How do women physicists or astronomers find other women who understand their experiences as:
- the only Hispanic in the department,
- the only physics education researcher,
- the only full-time physicist at a two-year college, or
- the only one who brings a newborn in a sling to department meetings?

Women faculty in physics and astronomy departments in the U.S. can join eAlliances, an NSF-sponsored faculty development project, and become part of a peer-mentoring alliance with other women who share many of the same experiences.

The American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT)* hosts the project:
- providing the infrastructure to institutionalize the project,
- making it cost effective, and
- sustaining the project beyond the grant.


Women register at eAlliances.aapt.org and complete a short survey to select their “attributes.” They can review the attributes of other anonymous registrants. Individuals determine when they reveal themselves to an inquiry. If interested, an eAlliance is formed.

Attributes include: employment sector, gender identity, type of academic institution, career stage (tenured?), sexual identity, area of research, marital status and two-body problem, family situation (children or aging parents at home).

So far over 60 women have registered:
- eAlliances are starting to form and face-to-face meetings of individuals in each eAlliance are being held this summer.
- PIs are considering ways to more broadly engage women who are registered through an online community and assess the program.
- First of two summits of eAlliance participants will be in July 2018.

**Other Gender Equity Work by AAPT**
- Committee on Women in Physics – leading AAPT’s efforts in supporting women in physics including focus on recruiting and retaining women.
- Inventory of women in AAPT leadership positions, plenary speakers and awards to inform leaders.
- HerStories video and lesson plans - [http://aapt.org/resources/herstories.cfm](http://aapt.org/resources/herstories.cfm)
- Gender bias website (coming soon) – to collect, categorize, and comment on instances in which women physicists have experienced and responded to gender bias
- Mobilizing high school teachers to increase capacity and broaden women’s participation in physics (with Florida International University, American Physical Society, Texas A&M, and WestEd) [http://bit.ly/2x6Bo2](http://bit.ly/2x6Bo2)

*“AAPT:”
- Serves over 7,000 physics educators (K-12 through higher education) in over 30 countries across the globe.
- Approximately 45% of AAPT’s members are in higher education.
- Goal in AAPT’s Strategic Plan “Enrich the field by increasing the number and diversity of physics students and teachers at all levels, including those from ethnically and linguistically diverse backgrounds, those with diverse abilities, and those from the LGBT+ community.”
- Visit [www.aapt.org](http://www.aapt.org) for more information.

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**AIP TRENDS**

Women Among Physics Faculty Members

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