STEM Success

Science and engineering credentials earned at community colleges increased by 120 percent from 2000 to 2012.

From 2000 to 2012, the overall number of science and engineering associate degrees awarded by community colleges more than doubled, from 38,434 to 84,641. Data by gender show similar patterns. Men had the highest growth in science and engineering credentials, which accounted for 20,101 awards in 2000 and 48,776 awards in 2012. It represents a 143 percent increase in credentials earned by men. Women had a 96-percent increase among these credentials, increasing from 18,333 awards to 35,865 awards for the same period of time. As the data indicate, women are still underrepresented in the field.

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Note: According to NSF, science and engineering includes biological/agricultural sciences, physical sciences, computer sciences, mathematics/statistics, engineering, psychology and social sciences. It excludes health sciences and physical sciences, such as chemistry, physics, astronomy, and earth/atmospheric/ocean sciences.