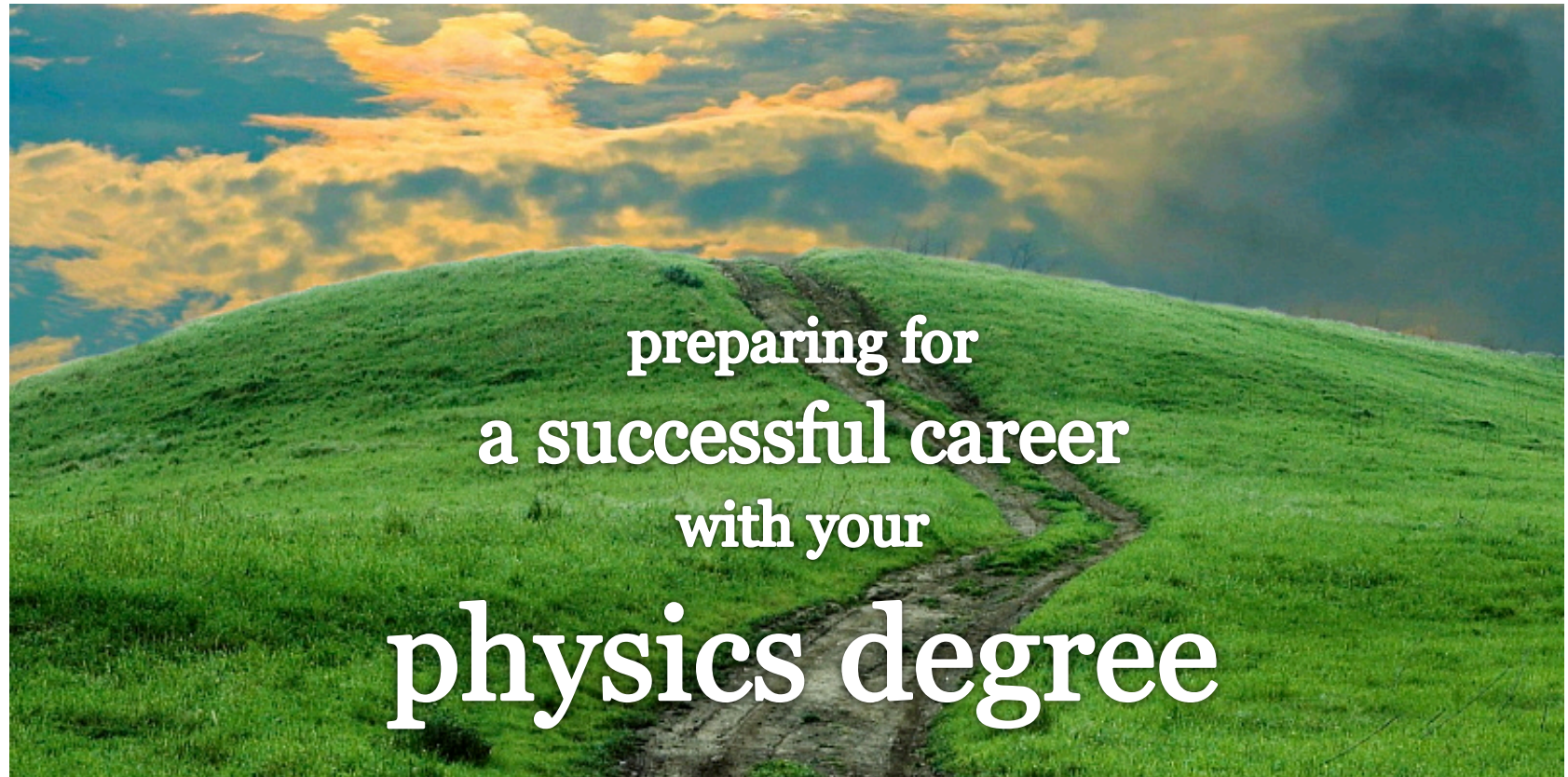


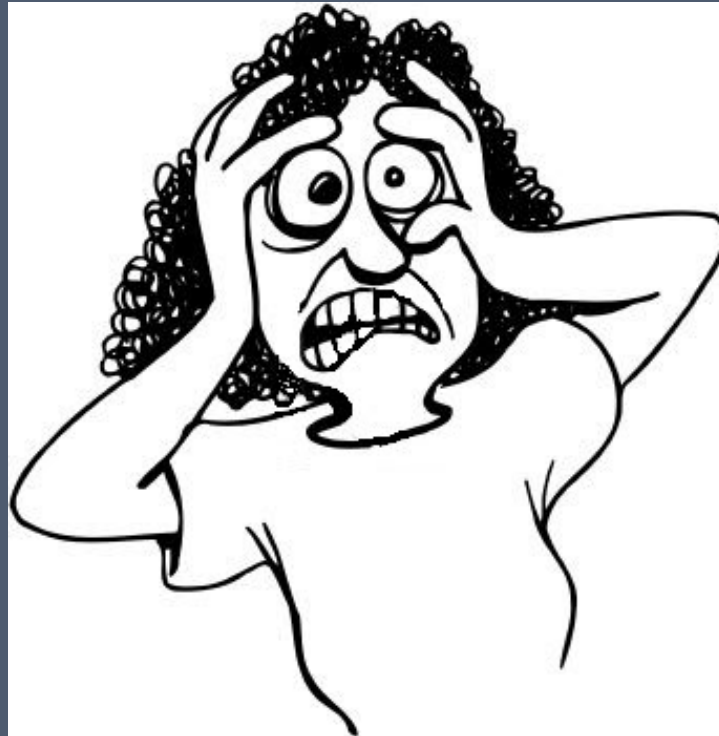
YOU HAVE OPTIONS!



preparing for
a successful career
with your
physics degree

Dr. Toni Sauncy, Texas Lutheran University

Former Director, Society of Physics Students & Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honor Society



WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO
WITH MY PHYSICS DEGREE?

Acknowledgements

Project Personnel

Project Investigators

- Thomas Olsen, former Assistant Director – Society of Physics Students
- Kendra Redmond, Programs Manager – Society of Physics Students
- Roman Czujko, Director – AIP Statistical Research Center
- Toni Sauncy, former Director – Society of Physics Students and Sigma Pi Sigma

New Contributions:

- Brad Conrad, Director-SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma
- Kerry Kidwell Slak, Assistant Director – SPS and Sigma Pi Sigma

Student Contributors-SPS Summer Interns

- Amanda Palchak, University of Southern Mississippi(2011)
- Shouvik Bhattacharya, Minnesota State University (2012)
- Jose “Ro” Avila, King College, SPS Summer Intern (2013)



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Project No. 1011829, *“Expanding the STEM Workforce by
Equipping Physics Bachelors Degree Recipients and their
Departments to Address the Full Range of Career Options”*

The Perception

*of physics career options
at the bachelor's level*

Become a professor

Become a professor

Become a professor

DO RESEARCH

DO RESEARCH

DO RESEARCH

Become a professor

Become a professor

Become a professor

DO RESEARCH

Become a professor

DO RESEARCH

Become a professor

DO RESEARCH

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Become a professor

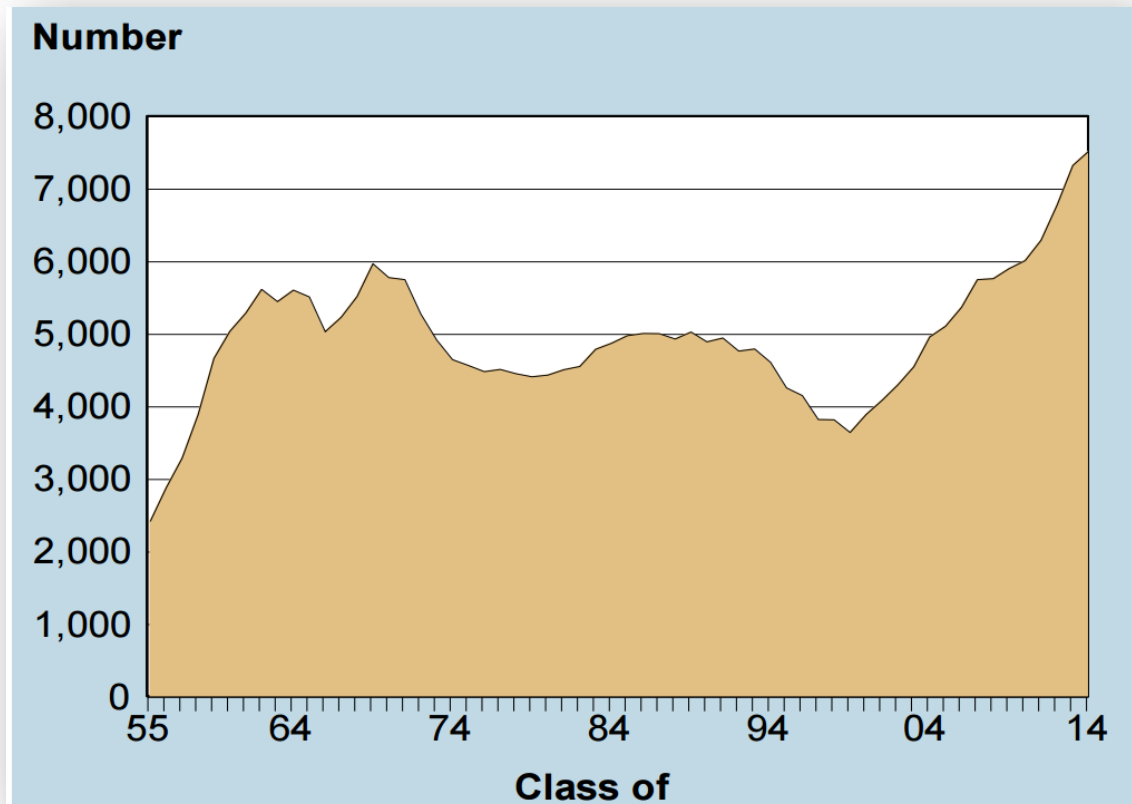
Become a professor

DO RESEARCH

Data. How many?

Good news.

Physics bachelor's degree production is on the rise.



Physics students have broad interests

- About 1/3 of all physics majors graduate with a double major

Most Common Double Majors of Physics Bachelors

Mathematics

Astronomy & Astrophysics

Engineering

Chemistry

Computer & Information Sciences

Music & Fine Arts

Philosophy & Theology

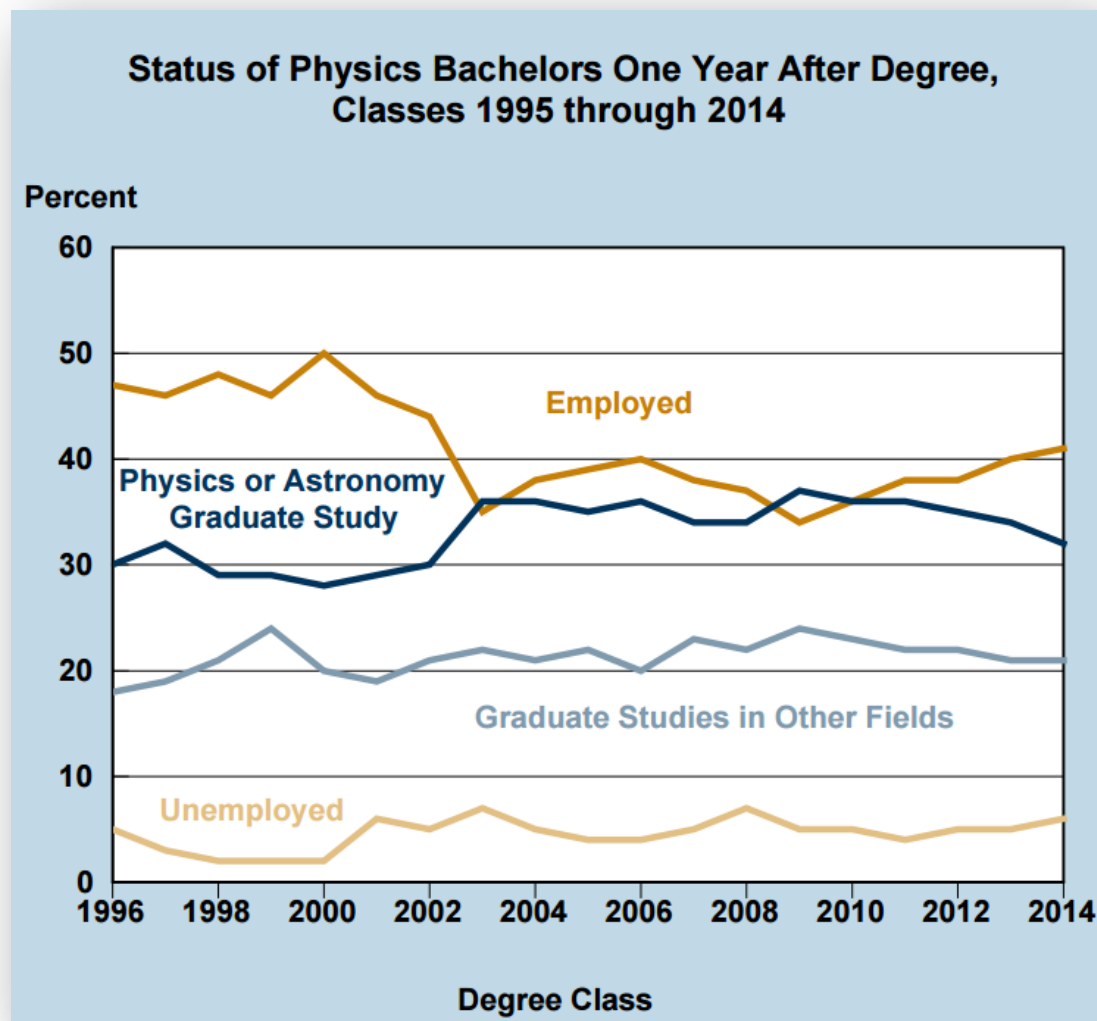
Education & Teaching Certification

Biology

Economics

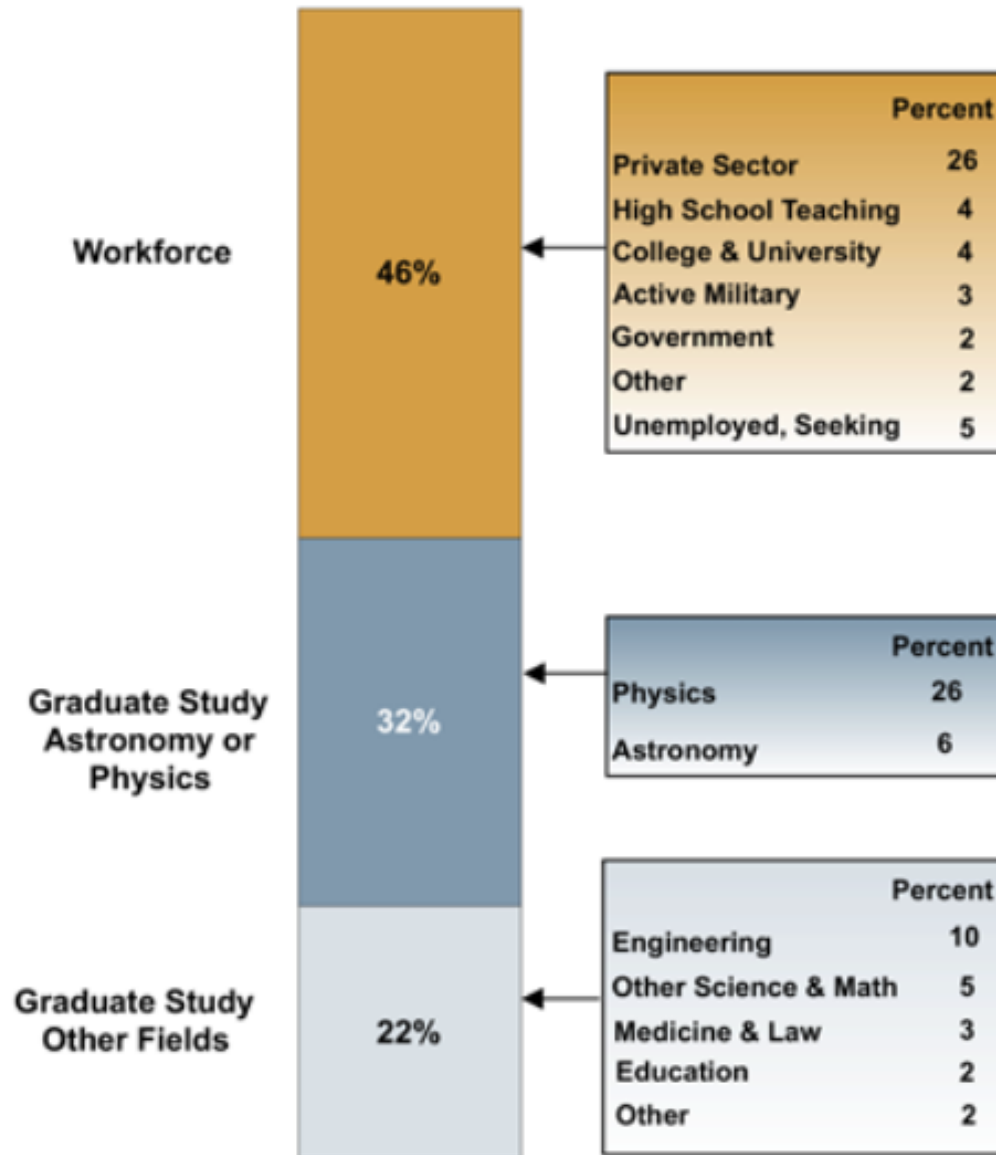
One year later.

Good news!



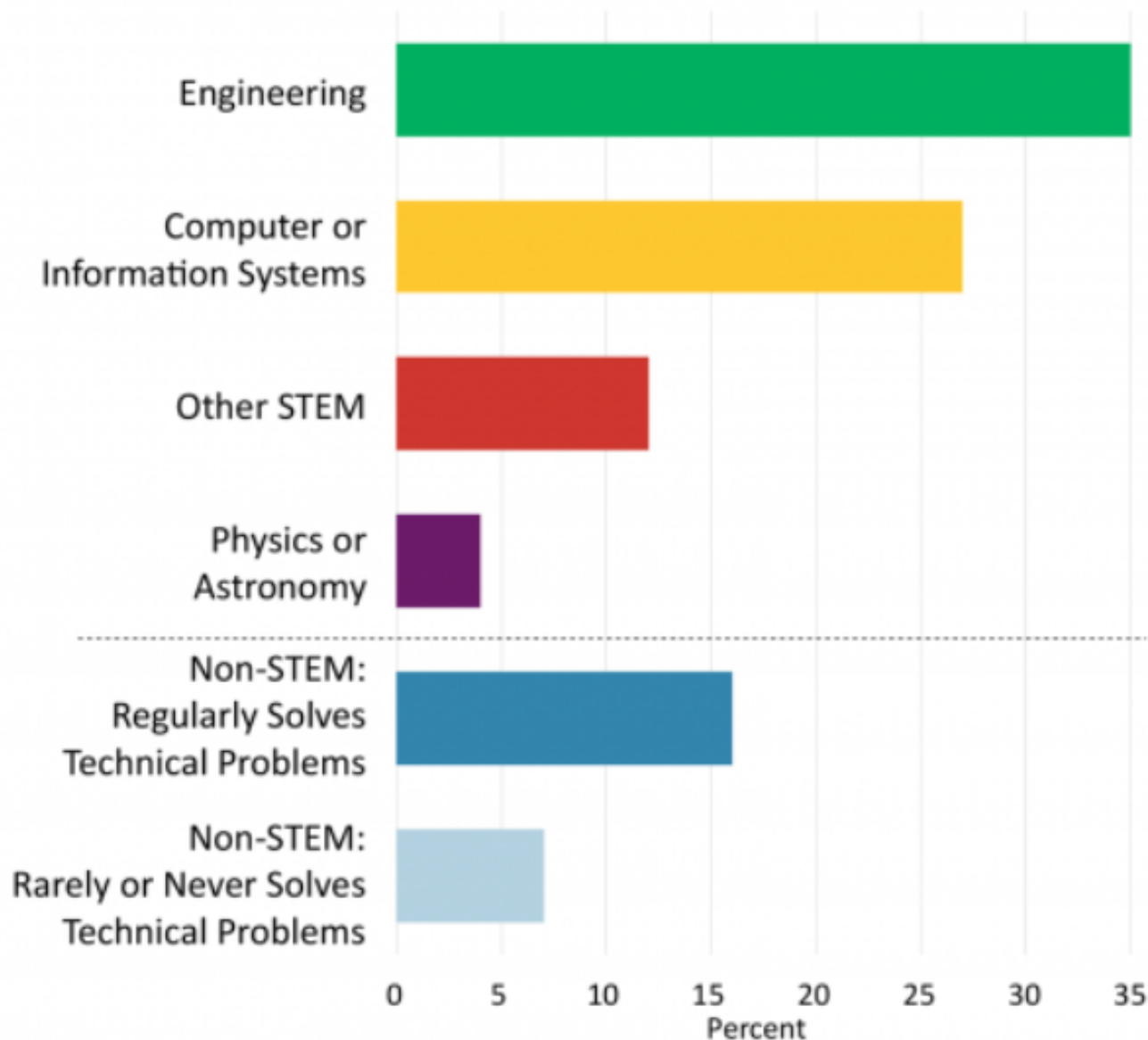
Physics Bachelors 1 Year Later

7,430 Recent Degree Recipients



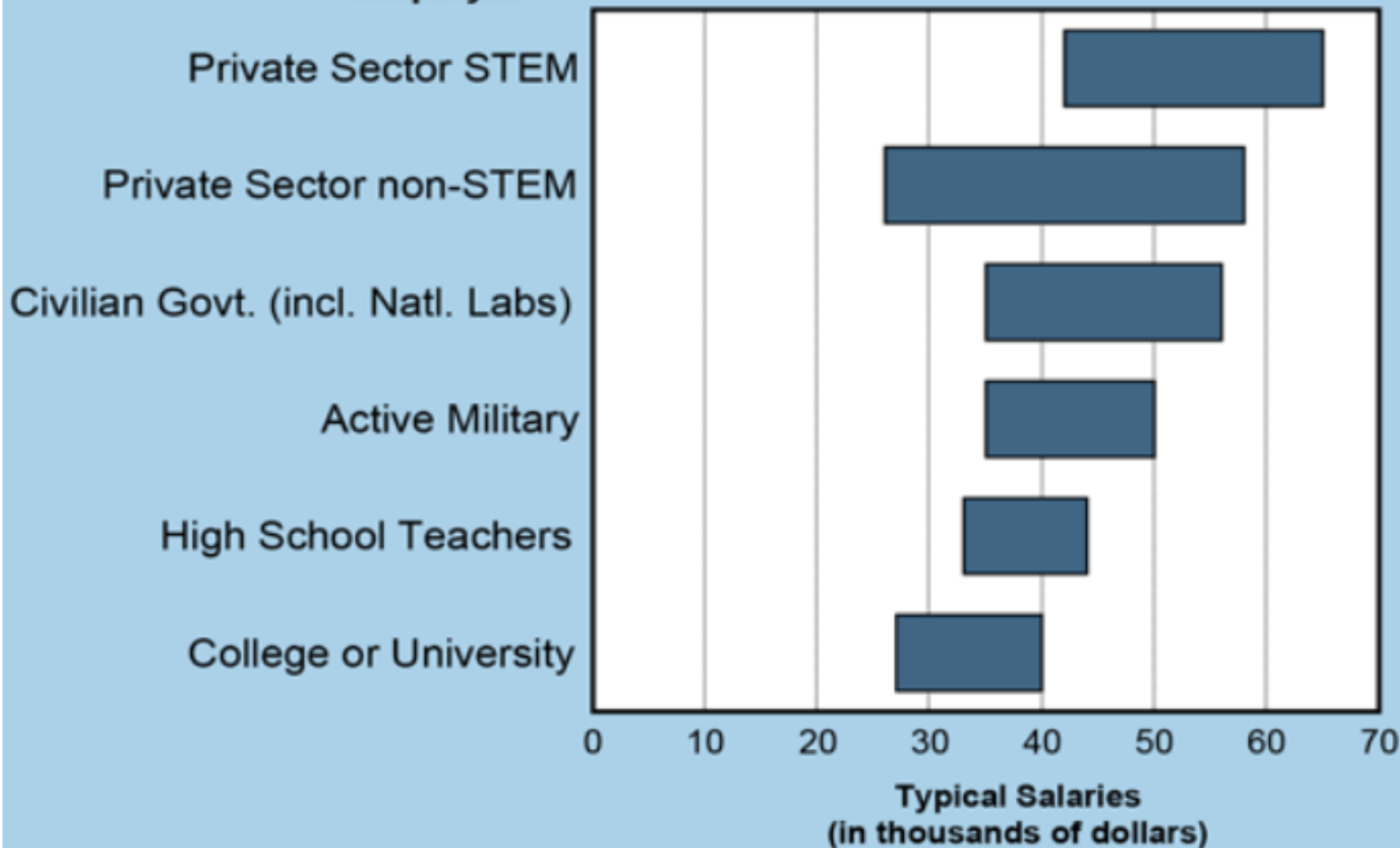
Field of Employment for New Physics Bachelors

Employed in the Private Sector



Typical Starting Salaries for Physics Bachelors, Classes of 2013 & 2014 Combined

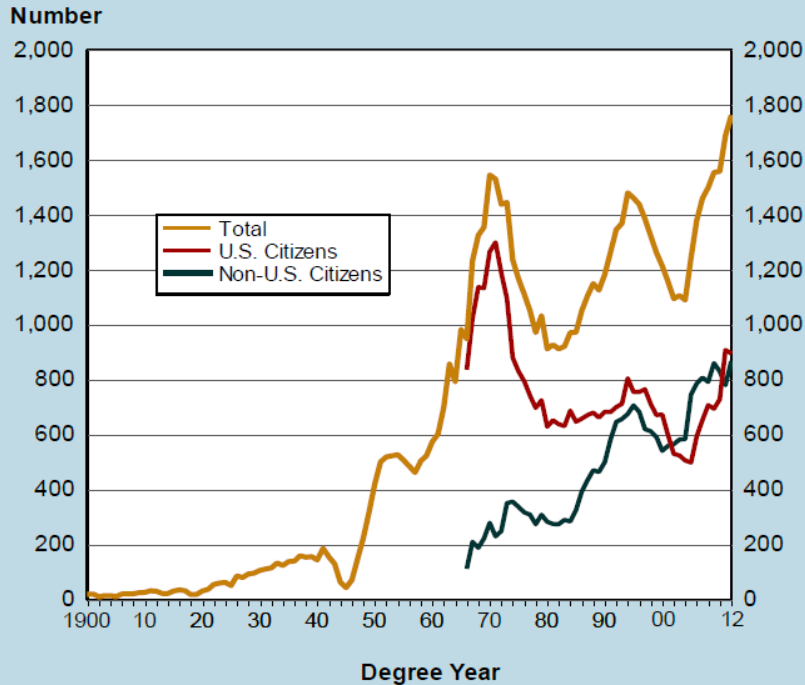
Employer



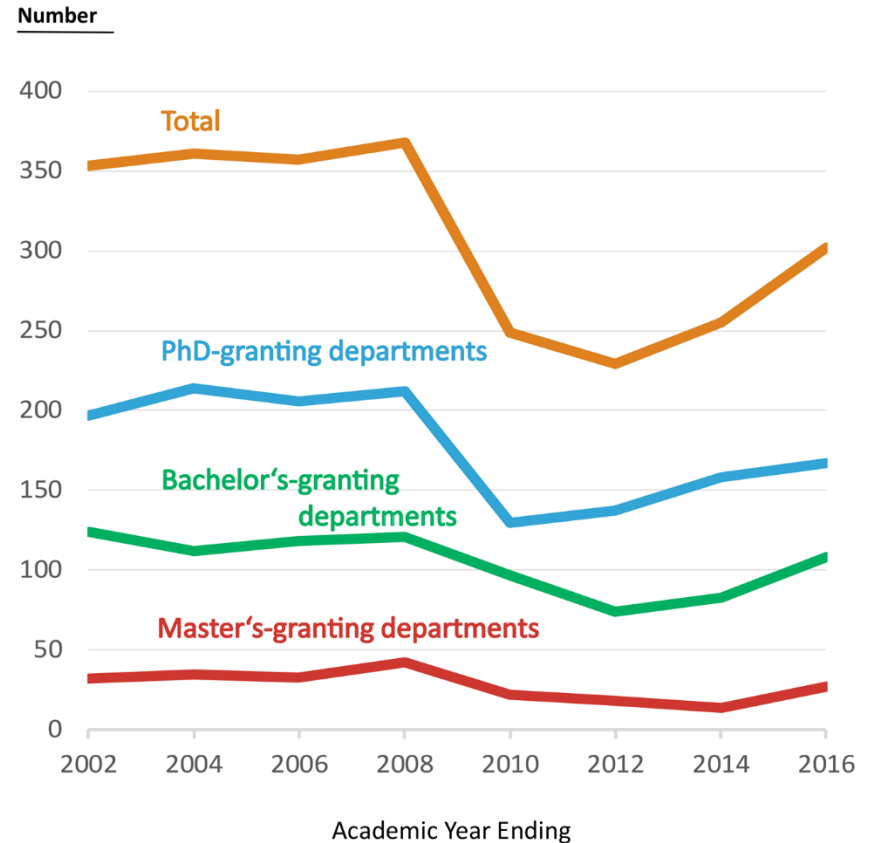
What about PhDs?

Less than 5% of Physics Bachelor's degree recipients will enter academia in a tenure track position

Physics PhDs Conferred in the U.S., 1900 through 2012.



Number of Faculty Hired by Physics Departments
Tenured and Tenure-Track Positions Only



• The noticeable drop from 2008 to 2010 is likely due to the 2008 recession.

Primary employment for PhD physicists is in the private sector!

FMI:

<https://www.aip.org/statistics/whos-hiring-physics-phds>

So, where do all those BS/BA physics graduates go?



Anything!

Students should be equipped for **the path they choose** when they complete their bachelor's degree.

Workforce
(STEM, non-STEM)

Grad School
(Physics &
other)

Teaching K-12

Departments that provide robust programs addressing a broad range of career trajectories for undergraduate students ***tend to be most successful.***



Resources are FREE.

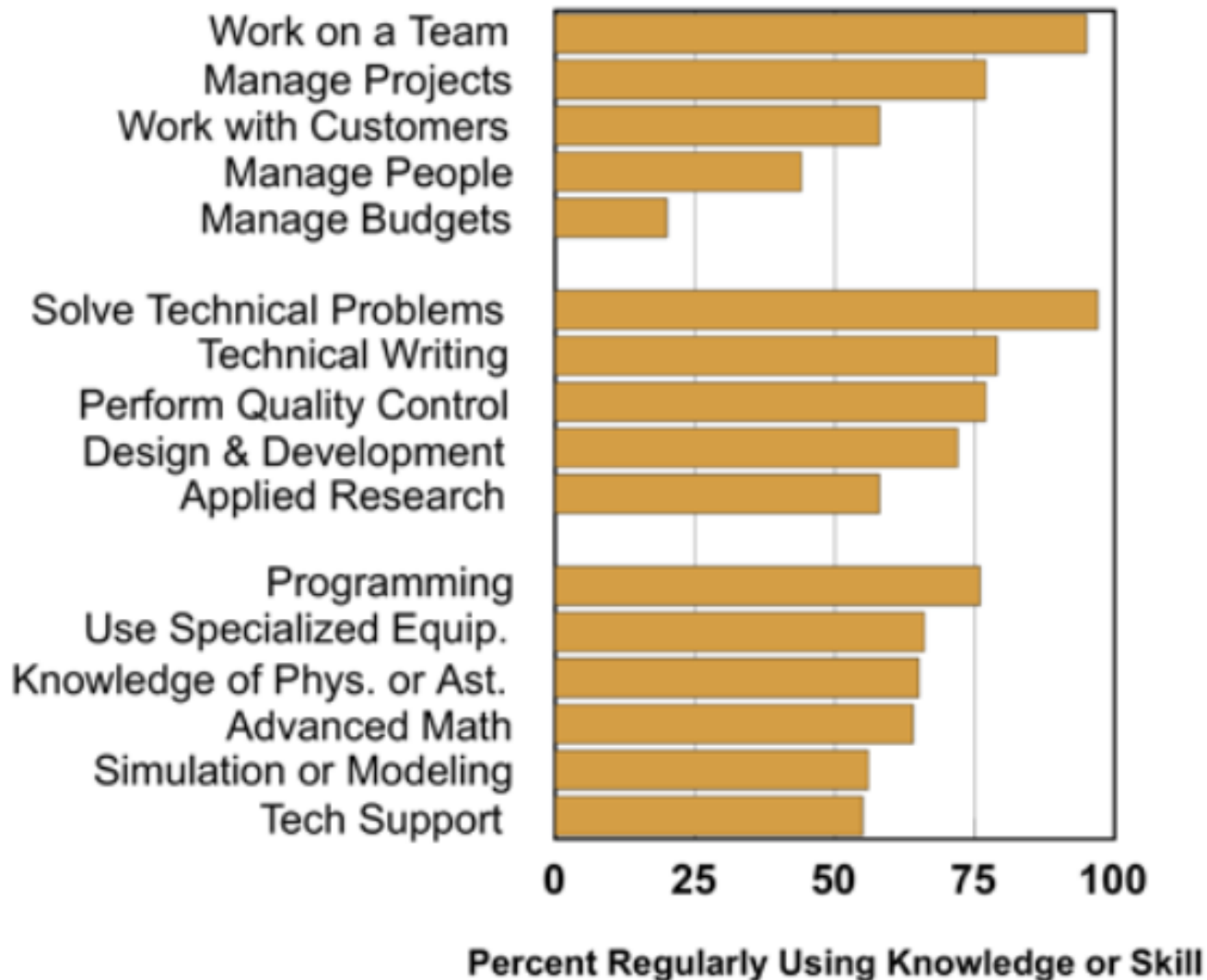
<https://www.spsnational.org/career-resources/career->

The screenshot shows the website for the Society of Physics Students (SPS). The header includes the SPS logo, the text "SOCIETY OF PHYSICS STUDENTS", and a search bar. A navigation menu contains links for "About", "Programs & Resources", "Awards", "Meetings", "Career Resources", "The SPS Observer", and "Sigma Pi Sigma". The main content area is titled "Career Resources" and features a sidebar with links: "SPS Jobs", "What opportunity are you looking for?", "Considering a Physics Major?", "Currently Studying Physics?", "Considering the Workforce?", and "Considering Grad School?". Below the sidebar are links for "Career Pathways Project" and "Careers Toolbox Website". The main content area includes social media sharing icons, the question "What opportunity are you looking for?", and two featured articles: "Considering a Physics Major?" (with an image of diverse students) and "Currently Studying Physics?" (with an image of students in a classroom).

Toni Sauncy - tsauncy@tlu.edu

Skills Used Regularly

New Physics Bachelors Employed in STEM Fields



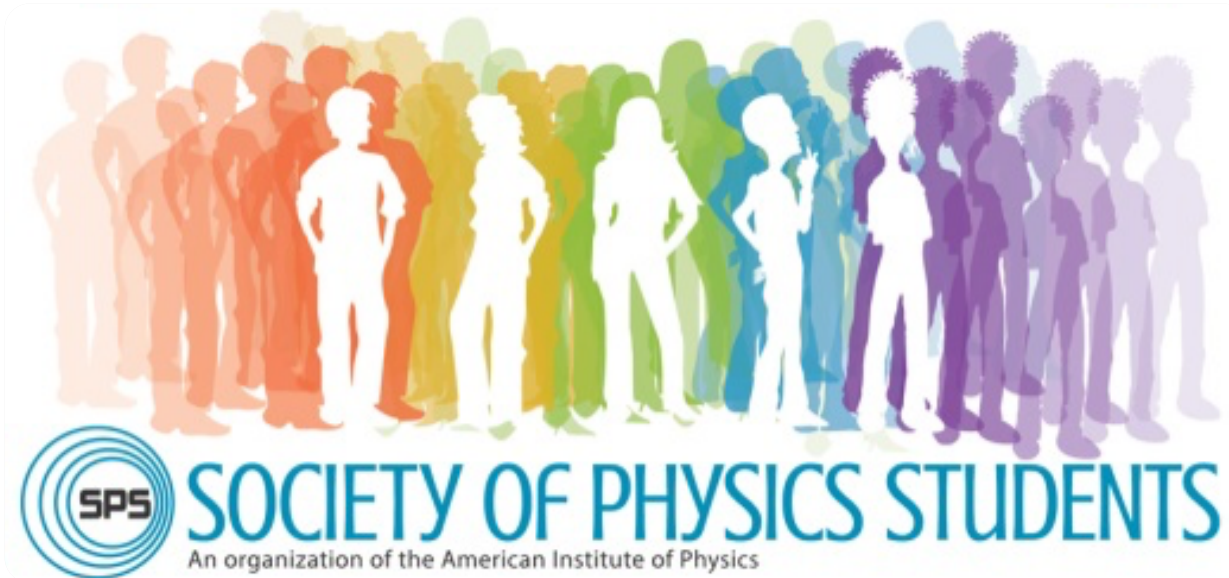
Physics – Common skills / skill sets

Working with laboratory instruments	Computer hardware and software
Conducting research	Analysis and quantitative thinking
Communicating complex ideas	Working with others
Problem solving and critical thinking	Others??

**Physics
Professor**



I can't wait to hear
where **your**
Career pathway
takes you!



www.spsnational.org

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References

- AIP Statistical Research Center, AIP Physics Trends: Research Experiences of Physics Undergraduates, Fall 2009.
- AIP Statistical Research Center, AIP Physics Trends: Physics Students Have Broad Interests, Spring 2011.
- Susan White and Raymond Chu, Physics Enrollments in Two-Year Colleges, April 2013.