

1023-E1-283

Satish C Bhatnagar* (bhatnaga@unlv.nevada.edu), 308 Cavalla Street, Henderson, NV 89074.
A Diversity Perspective.

The paper touches upon a few issues in a local context that also have global impact. One of the reasons that in Feb, 2006 UNLV's first female President, Carol Harter was forced to step down was that during her 11-year tenure not enough was done towards ethnic equity and diversity.

Unless an institution is wholeheartedly committed to diversity, even discipline specific equity say in mathematics, will remain a far cry. Efforts of the department need to be orchestrated with drives from student services and higher administration. Minority students are more likely to be attracted towards math if they see the corresponding representative minority faculty in the classrooms.

The faculty hiring process at UNLV is flawed from its ad writing to the faculty vote. Unless the names reveal racial identity like most Asian names do, or gender, it is only accidental that a male minority candidate makes to an interview.

The top layer of the administrators has a greater impact on diversity landscape. UNLV has more women in higher administration and faculty because of female presidency. Towards math, there is a cultural bias in the US society that is independent of diversity issues. Institutions must commit special funds on mentoring the minority students from admission to graduation. (Received September 03, 2006)