50k and Counting

The Backstory... In 2015, NSBE began collaborating with two other preeminent engineering diversity organizations — the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Society of Women Engineers — to reshape the engineering landscape. The group set an audacious goal: to lead the U.S. to increase the number of Black, Brown and women engineering bachelor’s degree graduates produced annually in the nation from 30,000 to 50,000 by 2025. Soon after, the American Engineering Science and Engineering Society joined the Leadership Circle of the organization formed at that meeting, the 50k Coalition, which recruited dozens of other visionary leaders from the engineering ecosystem to work together to forge a more diverse engineering workforce.

The News!... Today, the 50k Coalition’s ambitious goal has been met. The group’s 2023 Impact Report, presented at a symposium on Feb. 19, announced that more than 51,000 women or BIPOC candidates received engineering degrees in 2020, five years earlier than anticipated.

NSBE CEO Janeen Uzzell applauds the progress made by the coalition but adds that much more work is ahead.

“This report is the culmination of years of focused effort by our partnership that began before my arrival at NSBE and continued through the most challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Uzzell says. “I am proud of all that was accomplished. And although this body of work is complete, the data presented clearly show that many more resources and systemic changes are needed to make the field of engineering truly inclusive. NSBE is committed to continuing the collaboration with our partners to support our Game Change 2025 initiatives, which support African Americans on the path to success in STEM.”