



# Sloan Career Cornerstone Center

## Profiles of Physicists



**Anthony M. Johnson**

**Distinguished Professor and Chairperson  
Department of Physics  
New Jersey Institute of Technology**

### **Education:**

B.S. -- Physics; Polytechnic University

PhD -- Physics; City College of the City University of New York

### **Job Description:**

Distinguished Professor and Chairperson

### **Comments:**

"I have the daunting challenge of chairing the Physics Department, teaching, conducting research in the field of ultrafast optical phenomena, professional society activity, and managing the 1300 Optics Letters manuscript submissions I receive per year and Editor-in-Chief."

### **Interview:**

"As a junior at PINY, a professor encouraged me to apply to a new summer program at Bell Laboratories -- the Summer Research Program for Minorities and Women. It was a pivotal point in my career; I had never even heard of Bell Labs, prior to this. During that summer, I performed laser experiments that marked the beginning of the field of picosecond optoelectronics and I published my first technical paper in a peer reviewed journal. My advisor became a mentor and colleague throughout my life. I conducted my Ph. D. thesis research at Bell Labs. When I received my Ph. D. in physics in 1981, I was one of four African-Americans to receive a doctorate in physics that year in the U.S. That summer experience at Bell Labs was the critical event in my career. Before that summer, I had a minimal interest in optics and lasers. Now it is my chosen career and profession!"

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Prepared as part of the Sloan Career Cornerstone Center ([www.careercornerstone.org](http://www.careercornerstone.org))

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