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For two decades, U.S. scientists, educators, corporate executives, and government officials have struggled vainly to plug a pipeline: Minorities are leaking from our educational system at a rate that guarantees a predominately white scientific workplace through the end of this century. Beginning on page 1175 and including an essay by NSF director Walter Massey (page 1177), a special section in this issue probes the causes of our past failures on this front and identifies solutions on the horizon. [Illustration: Stephen Bauer]

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