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Building Thriving Undergraduate Physics Programs

Wednesday 17 June 2015 09:00 (30 minutes)

There are about 760 colleges and universities that offer an undergraduate degree in physics in the United States. Some are small and educate only a few physics students each year, while others attract, educate, and graduate dozens. The American Physical Society and the American Association of Physics Teachers have organized a number of workshops to help departments build and improve their undergraduate programs. This presentation will feature some of the resonate themes from these workshops, and suggest resources and ideas that any faculty member might consider to help them improve their undergraduate program. Specific techniques such as establishing career tracks, developing broader professional skills, emphasizing undergraduate research, and understanding how students approach education will be discussed along with case-studies of departments that re-invented themselves, and built vibrant physics programs in the process.

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