

Workshop 3 2:00-4:00 PM Room 260 F

All workshops require preregistration and cost \$10. Please email Don Donovan (ddonovan@thayer.org) to reserve a spot. You may pay when attending with either cash or a check made out to NES_AAPT. If space permits, on site registration would be available, too.

Phenomenal- Physics A Guided Inquiry Curriculum for Pre-College Education, Teacher Preparation, and Conceptual Physics Instruction at the College Level

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The word inquiry has become a buzzword of late, often used by equipment vendors as a promotional tool. As a result, we might as well ask what IS guided inquiry and what is its place in the classroom? How does it differ from laboratory instruction? Are limitations imposed by this methodology and how might we minimize those? Using exercises gleaned from a textbook authored by the presenter originally inspired by work performed under NSF grant Project INSPIRE a, participants in this Nationally AAPT-sponsored workshop explore a hands-on method of instruction that can lead to remarkable levels of retention and, most importantly, interest in the subject and total lack of apprehension. The curriculum, with only minor modifications in application, can be used effectively by elementary-middle school teachers, high school teachers offering conceptual physics courses, and at the college level in the areas of teacher preparation and conceptual “General Education” courses as well as substituting for “traditional” lab exercises. One of the beauties of the approach is its minimal cost and use of readily available materials. The curriculum is not without a sense of humor, enhancing its acceptance by even the most “physics phobic” students.