

4CF15-2015-000038

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the 4CF15 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

The Sundial Project: Building a Sustainable Science Community

ALYSSA ADAMS, Arizona State University

Sundial is a student-lead organization at Arizona State University that fosters diversity, community, and support for all students who have an interest in the physical sciences. Student retention is a priority, and all of Sundial's efforts are aimed at creating a positive and encouraging community for everyone involved. This is facilitated through embracing a large diversity of backgrounds and perspectives in order to create a sustainable diverse community. During this discussion, we will share how Sundial works to meet these goals. This includes a summer bridge program for incoming freshmen, a mentoring class during the fall and spring semesters, and student-lead committees for various activities. Throughout the summer, continuing students build a program that acclimates incoming freshmen to the various aspects of college life, both inside and outside of academia. Freshmen are introduced to the scientific process as scientists experience it, through observation and discussion. This mentality is reiterated throughout Sundial's academic activities throughout the year to create a sense of participation in current research. The mentoring program aims to strengthen bonds between students, creating a strong sense of community. It also promotes career development, opportunities to participate in science outreach, and scientific research. To accommodate multiple student leadership opportunities, Sundial's body is composed of several committees, each with a different goal. Committees are created by members who seek to propel Sundial's goals in various ways throughout the many avenues of college life.