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PR2EPS: Preparation, Recruitment, Retention and Excellence in the Physical Sciences HUGH GALLAGHER, SUNIL LABROO, PAUL BISCHOFF, JOHN SCHAUMLOFFEL, NANCY BACHMAN, SUNY College at Oneonta — PR2EPS, is an NSF-DUE sponsored program at SUNY Oneonta designed to attract students to pursue physics, chemistry and related physical science degrees in college. For those students who choose to study at SUNY Oneonta, the program also seeks to increase the retention rate of all students in the physical sciences by providing specialized skills and professional development courses, an evening tutoring center, and exposure to research and professional activities early in their undergraduate careers. A key focus of the project is drawing students from the five, primarily rural and agricultural, counties surrounding Oneonta, NY. Their first direct exposure to the program will be in recruiting visits to local high schools where promising candidates will be invited to participate in a weeklong summer camp designed to demonstrate to them that they possess the requisite skills and potential to succeed in these technically demanding disciplines. We will provide a brief description of the program and discuss outcomes of the first year including the inaugural summer camp.

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