Abstract Submitted for the APR11 Meeting of The American Physical Society

Physics for the 21st Century, a course in modern physics for teachers, students, and the pubic NOAH FINKELSTEIN, University of Colorado at Boulder, STEPHANIE CHASTEEN, University of Colorado and ScienceGeekGirl, MICHELE MCLEOD, Annenberg Learner, KELLY CRAMER, Science Media Group, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics — Increasing attention is now being paid to what and how to teach modern physics in precollege environments. This talk will present the framework for comprehensive suite of materials that introduce teachers, students, and members of the public to cutting edge areas of investigation in physics. Physics for the 21st Century is course in modern physics for physics teachers, undergraduate non-science majors, and the interested public. The 11 units, accompanied by videos, interactive simulations, and a comprehensive Facilitator's Guide, work together to present an overview of key areas of rapidly-advancing knowledge in the field, arranged from the sub-atomic scale to the cosmological. The goal is to make the frontiers of physics accessible to anyone with an inquisitive mind who wants to experience the excitement, probe the mystery, and understand the human aspects of modern physics. The course materials are available at no charge at http://www.learner.org/, the web site of Annenberg Learner, part of the Annenberg Foundation.

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