

APR11-2011-000917

Abstract for an Invited Paper
for the APR11 Meeting of
the American Physical Society

Physics Education Research in Perspective: An Historical and Conceptual Overview¹

DAVID E. MELTZER, Arizona State University

I will discuss the evolution of physics education research (PER) within an historical perspective that begins in the 1860s, focuses on developments in the post-World War II period, and extends towards diverse future pathways. PER has incorporated a broad array of themes that resonate with past developments in science education; however, it also provides unique perspectives that offer promise of potential breakthroughs in areas previously underexplored. Nonetheless, there is a long road from promise to realization, and I will try to identify key aspects of past accomplishments as well as of present and future challenges.

¹Supported in part by NSF PHY-0108787 and DUE-0817282.