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Excellence in Physics Education Award: Graduate Programs for Professional Development of Physics Teachers
JANE JACKSON, retired

The landscape for high school physics is changing rapidly, especially with the need to merge physics into a coherent STEM curriculum that smoothly integrates it with chemistry and biology. Accordingly, there is an urgent need for graduate professional development programs to help in-service teachers cope with these changes. One such program was created in 2001 by the physics department at Arizona State University after a decade of NSF funding for the Modeling Instruction Program. We discuss what has been learned from that experience with recommendations for creating similar programs at other universities.