

Abstract Submitted  
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**Transverse Energy at RHIC in the Forward/Backward Direction using the PHENIX MPC**<sup>1</sup> BRETT FADEM, Muhlenberg College, PHENIX COLLABORATION — Transverse energy has been used to estimate energy density in ultra-relativistic heavy ion collisions and to discriminate between competing models of hadronic interactions. Furthermore, fluctuations in transverse energy might signal the presence of a critical point in the phase diagram of nuclear matter. The PHENIX Muon Piston Calorimeter (MPC) has acceptance in the range  $3.1 < |\eta| < 3.8$ . Status of the measurement of transverse energy using the PHENIX MPC at RHIC will be reported.

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